

PHISISING PRINCIPLES

Bankruptcy Court, and the wish to find the noble Lord guilty has perhaps in some minds been father to the thought that he was so. But this is true only of the most unscrupulous of partisans. Jealousy of the purity of public servants is the real source of the interest taken by the general public in the elucidation of the transactions in connection with which Lord Westbury has cut so prominent a figure, and from which his reputation has undoubtedly received a serious stain.

The office of Lord High Chancellor of England is one which, while it may well inspire the ambition and reward the toils of the most able members of the legal profession, is not without its troubles, its temptations, and its cares. The most formidable of these drawbacks is, perhaps, the fact that the very eminence of the position makes its occupant peculiarly liable to party attack and often to unjust censure; but that should only make him the more careful to avoid giving even the semblance of ground for such attacks. The Lord Chancellor is the official keeper of the Sovereign's conscience—though the practical significance of that part of his functions has probably passed away since the days when churchmen ceased to hold the office; but he is the head of the legal administration of the country, and is a large dispenser of patronage in the Church. In both these capacities he should be above suspicion. It is not necessary that the Lord Chancellor should never exercise his patronage for the benefit of persons in whom he is personally interested, but it is necessary that not even the shadow of a corrupt motive should fall upon him. He may appoint his own sons, or relatives, or friends to offices in his gift; most Chancellors have done so; but he should always take care that whoever he does appoint to an office shall be competent to perform the duties imposed upon him, and is of such a character as not to bring disrepute upon his functions or upon the source from which he derived them. In this respect we cannot avoid the conviction that Lord Westbury has been wanting, in reference, at least, to the two cases which have occupied so large a share of attention lately. We do not believe that he had any positively corrupt motive in the course he took in both these affairs, nor do we believe that he had any knowledge whatever of the improper practices of his son and Mr. Welch; but we do think that he ought to have exercised a larger measure of caution in making his appointments. He was perfectly justified in removing both Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Wilde from the offices they held after he became acquainted with their malpractices; but he was not justified in allowing such delinquents to retire with pensions from the public which they had wronged, and he was remiss in not giving greater attention to the circumstances under which those pensions were granted, and in not making himself thoroughly acquainted with the character and associations of the person he named to fill the office vacated by Mr. Wilde. This is Lord Westbury's fault—or his weakness; but that weakness was itself a grievous fault, for it has damaged his usefulness and brought discredit on the high office he holds. Both these results we conceive to be grave public misfortunes, for we have all an interest in the reputation and usefulness of such a man as Richard Bethell, Lord Westbury; and we have all a still greater interest in the blamelessness of the occupant of the highest judicial position in the kingdom. That his Lordship has had to answer grievously—perhaps too grievously—for the fault he committed is true; but, while we sympathise with the man, we must still censure the erring functionary, so far as he is proved to have erred. In a mere party-cry against him we will not join, and no honourable person will; but all must grieve when a great man stumbles in his course and a valuable public servant impairs his usefulness; and both these things, unfortunately, Lord Westbury has done, though certainly not to the extent that some parties would have us believe. He has erred, and he has been censured, and will, perhaps, be censured still further; but let that censure be spoken in all honour and be unmixed with party rancour or personal malice.

But, of all the misfortunes that have overtaken Lord Westbury, the greatest is that of being the father of his eldest son. The career of Richard Bethell the younger is one which excites but one feeling—that of contempt; and, in dealing with him at least, the Lord Chancellor has shown an almost Roman father's sternness. Much trouble indeed must this young man have caused to his family ere his delinquencies came to the public ear. Engaged in gambling and other disreputable practices; drowned in debt; bankrupt in reputation as well as in worldly means; dismissed from one lucrative office, and again and again refused by his own father any other appointment; demeaning himself to act at least one part of the rôle of Autolycus, by pretending to sell an influence he did not possess, he has at last finished by becoming the prisoner of a common tipstaff and the inmate of a county gaol. Surely, this is a career the wretchedness and degradation of which is but rarely paralleled in the rank of life to which Richard Bethell belongs, and which ought, at least, to bespeak sympathy for all who have the misfortune to be connected with him. Let us hope that, when he has answered for his share of this Leeds Bankruptcy Court affair, we shall hear no more of the Hon. Richard Bethell.

The other parties concerned in the disreputable transaction in question we shall for the present leave to be dealt with as their conduct deserves. Mr. Wilde will probably forfeit his pension; Mr. Welch is pretty sure to lose the place he took such dishonourable means to obtain; a like fate, perhaps, impends over Mr. Miller; and, if the Bishop of his diocese does his duty, the Rev. Mr. Harding will be disgraced at least, if his part in the business does not bring still heavier punishment. The Government is pledged to take such proceedings against these parties as the law officers of the Crown shall

deem fit. Let the press and the public take care that this pledge is redeemed; and let all occupants and aspirants to employment in the public service be taught this lesson, that merit and honourable and upright conduct will alone secure that object, while the practices of those who resort to any sort of indirection will certainly recoil upon themselves.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

The Corps Législatif have passed the extraordinary budget by an overwhelming majority. This, we believe, completes the financial labours of the Chambers.

The Government has received another electoral defeat. At Clermont the Opposition candidate for the Corps Législatif has been returned by a majority of nearly 2000 votes over the Government nominee. This defeat is considered to be the more serious as the seat was occupied for a long time by the late Count de Morny, and its loss is regarded as showing the growing dissatisfaction of the country with the present restrictive system.

It is rumoured in Paris that Prince Napoleon is about entirely to break up his household and retire altogether into private life.

Marshal Canrobert has been appointed to the command of the army of Paris, and Count de Pelikao to that of Lyons. The post of commander of the army of Lille is, it is said, provisionally suppressed.

Private intelligence is said to have reached Paris to the effect that Mr. Seward has addressed a despatch to the French Government stating that the United States not only cannot entertain any proposal for the recognition of the Emperor Maximilian for the present, but that they can hold out no hope that similar overtures will be more favourably received at any future time; that the Monroe doctrine is the rule the Washington Cabinet has adopted for its foreign policy; and that that rule it means to stick to.

### SPAIN.

Marshal O'Donnell, once more the Prime Minister of Spain, has announced a spirited and progressive policy. His Government has decided, he told the Spanish Congress on the 23rd ult., upon recognising the kingdom of Italy and doing its best to preserve amicable relations with all foreign Powers. A general amnesty is granted for offences against the press law, and a new and more liberal measure for the regulation of the press is to be introduced. The Government intends, furthermore, to bring in a bill to diminish the qualification for the suffrage. The Rector and Professors of the Madrid University who were dismissed some time ago, to the great dissatisfaction of the public, are to be restored. In fact, O'Donnell means absolutely to reverse the policy of his predecessor, Narvaez.

### ITALY.

The negotiations between the Pope and the King of Italy have failed. The Pope stipulated for the following conditions, before signing a convention with King Victor Emmanuel:—That the Royal exequatur and the oath of allegiance be abolished in the case of the new bishops (not belonging to the former provinces of Sardinia); that no reduction or diminution shall take place in the existing dioceses; lastly, that the bishops be allowed full liberty in the management of their seminaries, to the exclusion of all Government authority. These conditions were rejected by the Cabinet at Florence, and the negotiations have been broken off, an event which is stated to have been received with great satisfaction by the clerical party at Rome. The French Ambassador took no part in the negotiations, but remained, by order of his Government, entirely passive.

### AUSTRIA.

There has been a Ministerial crisis in Vienna. The Cabinet has resigned, and various rumours are afloat as to the new arrangements; but, so far as is yet known, nothing definite has been decided upon.

### EGYPT.

Cholera has broken out in a serious form in Alexandria. On the 25th ult. 184 deaths occurred in the hospital, the total deaths from the outbreak of the epidemic to that date being 1034. Twenty thousand inhabitants are said to have left the city; but this number is doubtless exaggerated.

### THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 17th ult. President Johnson had issued a proclamation appointing William L. Sharkey, of Mississippi, Provisional Governor of that State, and providing for a constitutional revision of its Constitution, and the restoration of the State to the Union under conditions similar to those prescribed for North Carolina. He also issued a proclamation removing from and after the 1st proximo all restrictions upon foreign and domestic commerce with seceded States east of the Mississippi, except in articles contraband of war, not revoked by his previous proclamations. He declares the insurrection to be finally suppressed in the State of Tennessee, and removes from its people all disqualifications and disabilities consequent on the rebellion, except those embraced in his proclamation. The confiscation laws are, however, to continue in full force, as well as the regulations for the suspension of the habeas corpus and the exercise of military law.

At a meeting of the people of the Limestone county, Alabama, at Athens, on the 1st ult., it was declared that the appointment of a Provisional Governor and a constitutional revision of the State Constitution at the present time would greatly delay the restoration of civil order in the State, and it was therefore unanimously resolved to invite the other counties to unite in a convention at Montgomery for the nomination of State officers, and preparations for a general election under the laws and Constitution of the State as they existed previous to the passage of the ordinance of secession. All legislation under Confederate rule was declared null and void, and the assassination of President Lincoln was deplored, not only as a great crime, but as a great national calamity.

General Lee and Mr. Stephens were said to have applied to the President for a special pardon. It was still stated, however, that General Lee would be tried for treason. General Breckenridge was reported by his friends in Kentucky to have arrived safely in Cuba.

John Mitchell, the Irish exile, lately from Richmond, and for a short time past attached to the editorial corps of the *New York News*, had been arrested at his office in New York, by order of the War Department, and sent to Fortress Monroe. The charges against him were not publicly known.

Attorney-General Speed had decided that paroled prisoners of war are not exempt from indictment and prosecution by the civil courts for their acts during the war. He declares General John Morgan's men are subject to arrest and trial for robbery in the Kentucky courts, and that the Federal Government ought not to interfere with the execution of such process.

General Halleck, in a letter to the War Department, denies any intended affront to General Sherman by his directions to subordinate officers to disregard the Sherman-Johnston truce, and adds that they were in conformity with orders which he had himself received from General Grant. General Stoneman has also addressed the War Department, stating that, had not the armistice interfered with his operations, he would have captured Mr. Jefferson Davis in April, and that, had he obeyed General Sherman's orders to join him at Raleigh, President Davis and his party would certainly have escaped.

The ordnance repository in Chattanooga, containing several thousand tons of ammunition, had exploded. Shells flew in all directions, and, exploding, killed or injured many persons or set fire to buildings. The Quartermasters' and Commissaries' depôts, with their contents, were entirely destroyed. Estimated loss, 4,000,000 dollars. This explosion occurring almost simultaneously with a fire at Nashville and another at Gallatin, had led to suspicions of incendiarism.

The recent explosion at Mobile was believed to have originated with a torpedo, several having since been discovered in the custom-house in that city, adjusted to explode upon the opening of doors or secreted in desks or piles of rubbish.

A party of nearly 200 soldiers had attacked a settlement of negroes in Washington, drove them from their houses, beaten them, destroyed their furniture, and appropriated whatever of value could be found. The negroes subsequently rallied, when a fight ensued, in which firearms were used upon both sides, and several persons injured. The riot was only quelled by military force. Expulsion and beating of negroes for attempting to ride in the street cars were of daily occurrence in Philadelphia and New York. A delegation of negroes from Richmond had arrived in Washington on the 14th ult. to petition the President to inquire into the cruelties practised upon them in Richmond. They state that Generals Halleck and Ord and Provost-Marshal Patrick countenance their ill-treatment; that they are imprisoned by hundreds simply for not having passes, which most of them know not how to procure; and that their condition is worse than when they were slaves. The President promised inquiry.

A fight between parties of West Virginia and New York cavalry men, originating in a dispute about the courage of their respective regiments, had occurred in Washington. Some of the officers led the combatants upon both sides, and revolvers, bricks, and stones were freely used. Several soldiers and civilians who were spectators were severely wounded, and the affray was only terminated by the interference of a couple of regiments of veteran reserves.

A regiment of coloured troops, while being embarked for Texas, at Fortress Monroe, on the 12th ult., mutinied and threatened to shoot their officers unless they were returned to the shore. They were subsequently landed, disarmed, and then re-embarked for their original destination.

The great question of the manner of Mr. Davis's capture had not yet been settled, and probably never will be. It is the object of the Government to depreciate Mr. Davis as much as possible, and therefore they give currency to the petticoat story. Mr. Davis is still confined at Fortress Monroe. Colonel Pritchard, Mr. Davis's captor, had been in Philadelphia for some time. The question of how the capture was made was put to him very pointedly while there, and he pronounced the petticoat story a falsehood. The latest version of the events preceding the capture comes from New Orleans. It is vouched for by several citizens of that place, who were in Georgia at the time of Mr. Davis's capture. Mr. Davis was escorted from North Carolina to Georgia by two brigades of cavalry. When he arrived at the Georgia line he heard of the surrender of General Taylor, and at once disbanded his escort, giving them a small sum of gold that he had saved from an allowance made him by Congress, and directing them to go home. He then mounted his horse, and, accompanied by a few personal friends, proceeded to Ervingville, Georgia. No disguise or evasion was used. He was everywhere known and recognised as the President of the Confederate States. At Ervingville Mr. Davis first saw the proclamation of President Johnson, charging him with complicity in the assassination of Mr. Lincoln. He at once sent to the nearest Federal post and informed the commander of his purpose to surrender and meet the charge made against him. A detachment of General Wilson's Federal cavalry came to Ervingville, and Mr. Davis and his party surrendered. No further developments have been made of Mr. Davis's trial, but it is said it will be postponed until September. The report that Charles O'Connor, of New York, will defend him is correct.

### SOUTH AMERICA.

The latest news from South America is of the usual character—war and revolution in almost every State. The difficulties between Spain and Chili were still unsettled. In Peru the Revolutionary party continued to show a bold front, and General Prado was advancing on Lima; and, as the Government forces were advancing to meet him, a battle was expected, which would, in all probability, decide the contest.

### JOHN MITCHELL IN AMERICA.

THE following letter, addressed to the Hon. Benjamin Wood, proprietor of the *New York Daily News*, has been published:—

New York, June 13, 1865.

Dear Sir,—As my arrival in this city, and connection as an editorial contributor with your journal, has occasioned much hostile comment from some other newspapers of New York, which persist in terming me "rebel," and loudly call for my punishment as a traitor, I think it desirable that I should once for all "define my position," as that seems to be a subject of some interest to a portion of the public. So long as a Southern Confederacy existed I was a Confederate Secessionist, or, what some persons chose to term a rebel. From the moment of General Johnston's surrender to General Sherman, at Greensborough, I perceived that the cause of the Confederacy was utterly lost. There was no longer a Confederate Government—it had disappeared from human eyes; and inasmuch as a country cannot be without a Government, and the only Government then in fact subsisting being the Federal Government of the United States, I owed to it, from that instant, full obedience—which obedience I at once yielded in good faith, as, I think, my fellow-citizens at the South very generally did at the same time and for the same reason. I am, therefore, no longer a Secessionist nor a rebel, but a Unionist and a lawful citizen. By appeal to arms in assertion of the right to secede, the Southern States accepted beforehand the arbitrament of that sovereign tribunal. The decision has gone against them—no matter by what means, or by virtue of what overwhelming odds—against them it is. And I believe that all Southern men of high and honourable character do frankly accept the new position that war has made for them, and acknowledge the duty of applying themselves to the task of reconstructing and re-establishing their society upon the basis of the Union and the Constitution of the United States. This they will assuredly do, if they are permitted to do it in peace; if the successful Government do not trample them into the earth, or torture them by prosecutions for the crime of having asserted a right long known to have been claimed by most Southern politicians, and admitted by many at the North also.

The institution of slavery is virtually abolished on this Continent. The irrepressible conflict between free labour and slave labour has come, and slave labour has gone down. To this also the Southern people submit. On this point also they accept the decision of the war; and if they do so with reluctance and regret, it is but just to them to say that in most cases their sorrow is more for the fate which threatens that unhappy race they have protected so long than for the loss of the money value of their slaves, which money value, indeed, was less than nothing, inasmuch as they could at all times have had labour on cheaper terms. Some newspapers taunt me with inconsistency, in that I stood up for liberty in my native country, and then came and advocated slavery here. I cannot perceive the inconsistency. The liberty which I sought for Ireland was national independence only; and that only was what I sought for the South. I wished that Ireland should have the power to regulate her institutions in her own way, and I wished the Southern States to have the same power. I wished to repeal an enforced "Union" of Ireland with England, and I wished to resist the enforcement of a union between Virginia and New York. Where is the inconsistency? Others persistently charge me with having written everything objectionable to them which they can rake up out of the columns of the *Richmond Examiner* and the *Richmond Inquirer* for some years past. I was never at any time the editor of either of these journals. I refused to be responsible for all that appeared in them, never read their "personals," and never used that medium to give aid and comfort to the enemy, or either of the enemies. Further, I never, by writing or speech, approved any maltreatment or starvation of Federal prisoners at the South, nor was I aware there ever was any maltreatment or starvation. The orders, as I knew, were to give these prisoners the same as the Confederate soldiers received, and I understood that those orders were carried out. To be sure, Confederate rations were sometimes meagre enough; but I must be excused if I decline to believe all the dreadful stories told about this matter, or, indeed, about anything else, by witnesses before the military gentlemen at Washington.

What more must I deny? I never recommended the roasting of my fellow-creatures with vitriol and camphine, nor with either of them. What more? I never devoured my enemies, whether roast or boiled, with vitriol sauce or with dragon's blood. And if anyone affirms that I flogged to death my negro wench in Alabama with a curiously-twisted cowhide, or that I hired Booth, or purchased the bowie-knife for Payne, I would modestly ask him to prove the fact, but not before the military gentlemen at Washington. I bar that. So much for the past. As for the present and future, I have thought proper, without leave asked of anyone, to offer you such assistance as I can give, in the only daily journal in New York which has steadily upheld the true democratic principle of State rights; has deprecated a war to enforce an unwilling Union; has advocated, when that war ceased, a system of real peace and conciliation such as would enable Southern men heartily to co-operate in the task of reconstruction; and, above all, has opposed senseless



prosecutions for what is most improperly called treason, and the ill-omened practice of military courts in time of peace. The separate independence of the South being proved to be impossible, it has seemed to me that the best hope of preserving the liberties of the whole country lies in the Democratic party, with which the whole South will naturally ally itself, as before, and of which I conceive of nobody to come to the truest and boldest organ. I say that I asked leave of nobody to come to this city and to write in the *News*. Further, I do not conceive myself to be here and going at large by virtue of the "amnesty" that some papers have mentioned. Neither have I asked any "pardon," and I trust the President will not press a pardon upon me until I shall have been first convicted of something. I should be obliged, with thanks for his politeness, to decline it. He is very kind, but I do not use the article. JOHN MITCHELL.

#### REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE TAXATION OF IRELAND.

THE report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the taxation of Ireland has just been issued. The report, which extends over twelve folio pages, enters at some length into the question as to the conformity of the taxation of Ireland with the provisions of the treaty of Union. The Committee find it impossible to present, as they wished, an account of the total net liabilities of the two countries at the time of the Union, and again at the time of the amalgamation of the exchequers. By the treaty of union it was provided that even after amalgamation certain abatements and exemptions from indiscriminate taxation should be allowed to Ireland if the circumstances of the country seemed to require it. Of late years, however, the Committee say, considerable additions have been made to Irish taxation, and it has been placed more nearly on an equality with that of Great Britain. Between 1852-3 and 1862-3 the increase of taxation in Ireland was 52 per cent., whilst in Great Britain it was only 17 per cent. The Committee are of opinion that with regard to the grants for poor-law medical officers and for workhouse schoolmasters, the same aid should be extended to Ireland as in England. Mr. Senior, who gave evidence before the Committee, remarks that the taxation of England is both the heaviest and the lightest in Europe; the heaviest as regards the amount raised, the lightest as regards the ability to bear that amount; but that in the case of Ireland it is heavy, both as regards the amount and as regards the ability of the contributor; and he adds that England is the most lightly taxed, and Ireland the most heavily taxed, country in Europe, although both are nominally liable to equal taxation. The Committee were directed to inquire whether the taxation of Ireland was "just, in reference to the resources of the country." Though it is extremely difficult to ascertain exactly the relative wealth of the two countries, they think it is clear from a variety of figures, supplied chiefly by Mr. Chisholm, chief clerk of the Exchequer, and from other evidence, that the wealth of Great Britain is much more than seven times and a half that of Ireland—the proportion fixed for the contributions of the two countries by the treaty of union. It should be said, however, that at no time from the union to the present day has Ireland actually contributed to taxation in that proportion. The Committee say it is not to be denied that Ireland has been suffering during the last few years, but it has not been shown that this suffering has been owing to the pressure of taxation. "It would rather appear," says the report, "that it has been owing to the extremely unfavourable character of the seasons, which, for several years past, have been remarkably inclement, and which have caused peculiar sufferings to a country whose industry is almost wholly agricultural." If the taxation of Ireland, they add, is to be graduated so as to relieve her on the ground of her poverty, there are parts of England and Scotland which might set up a similar case. They hold, with regard to remedies, that it would be a serious error to expend the money voted for national objects in any other way than that which appears to be best for the nation at large; but, while they condemn unproductive expenditure, they are of opinion that any measures which can be safely taken for furthering advances of public money to promote the improvement of particular districts, in order to render those districts ultimately more capable of adding to the national wealth, are desirable. The applications for loans under the Lands Improvements Acts, which are attended with no risk of loss to the country, have fallen off since 1849; and the Committee think that the conditions must be too onerous, and might with advantage be modified.

The Committee recommend "that extensive proprietors should be allowed advances for land improvement, drainage, and labourers' cottages, beyond the sum of £8000, which is now the fixed limit, in all cases, whatever may be the size of the estate. They also recommend that it should be made optional with the proprietor to borrow the money, under the arrangement at present in force—viz., by repayments at 6½ per cent for twenty-two years; or by payments of 5 per cent for such a number of years as will be necessary to repay the sum borrowed, with the same rate of interest as at present. Also, that when a loan is granted for a farm building, it should not be made a condition that the proprietor should provide a house at a cost of £200. There are many cases where a small farm building would be most useful, but where no house is required."

Your Committee also recommend that the conditions attached to the erection of labourers' cottages should be reconsidered. Your Committee recommend that full periodical returns of local taxation in Ireland and Scotland should be laid before Parliament, as is provided in England by the Act of 1860. Your Committee, in conclusion, call attention to a question which has arisen as to a grant of £5000 a year, Irish currency, which was originally made for the encouragement of the Irish coast fisheries under the Act 59 Geo. III., c. 109. Some doubt appears to have existed in Ireland, in 1830, as to the effect of subsequent legislation upon this grant; and the Commissioners of Irish Fisheries were directed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in the same year, to suspend all further proceedings with respect to that grant. It seems afterwards to have been considered that the grant was actually terminated, and no issue of money was subsequently made under it, although applications were from time to time made to the Commissioners of Public Works for aid towards the building and repairing of fishery piers and for assistance to poor fishermen. Whether the original grant of £5000 a year is still in force, or capable of effect, appears to your Committee to be a legal question of no small importance, and possibly of some nicety. Your Committee strongly recommend that the question be submitted for the opinion of the legal advisers of the Crown.

THE TOTAL IMPORTS OF ITALY in the year 1862 amounted to 911 million francs, and the exports to 675 millions. The largest trade was with France and England. France sent to Italy goods to the value of 189 million francs, and received goods to the value of 233 million; England sent for 95 and received for 192 million; Switzerland sent for 136 and received for 87; Austria sent for 56 and received for 138; and the Zollverein sent for 689,000fr. and received goods to the value of 2,227,000fr.

SCENE AT THE OPENING OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENT.—The *Trésor*, of Athens, gives the following account of a boisterous scene which occurred at the opening of the present session of the Hellenic National Assembly:—"Ninety-two deputies had assembled in the hall where the sittings are held, and a crowd of people occupied the galleries, and even the places usually forbidden to the public. Persons of all classes, from the highest to the lowest, formed one confused mass with the deputies, and the uproar was such that nothing could be heard of what was passing round the president's desk, which was beset on the left by the crowd and only open on the side where the King was to arrive. In the midst of this disorder the Chamber proceeded to constitute its bureau. The oldest deputy present was to be the president, and the youngest four the secretaries. M. Livadas was put forward by M. Bulgaris as the oldest deputy, and took possession of the chair with four deputies devoted to the chief of the Revolutionary party as secretaries, though they were not the youngest. Unfortunately, M. Bulgaris had counted without his host; for Admiral Canaris was present, and by no means disposed to allow another to usurp his rights. Being older than M. Livadas, he demanded that the latter should yield up the chair to him. M. Livadas persisted in remaining, and all the deputies present took part in the quarrel, as did also the public. Several persons addressed abusive language to Admiral Canaris, and endeavoured to make him withdraw. At this moment M. Brallas, Minister of Foreign Affairs, arrived, and proposed M. Marcoras as best entitled to be president, but in vain, as that gentleman could not force his way through the crowd which surrounded the chair. M. Comounodourous then proposed that the question should be decided by a vote, but this was refused by the Opposition, and the disorder increased. There seemed to be no issue to the affair, when M. Lazaretos, deputy for Zea, reached the chair, and succeeded in ousting M. Livadas, exclaiming, 'I am the oldest; dispute it who will!' These words were loudly applauded, and M. Lazaretos, though the younger, remained in the chair. The King's arrival did not put an end to the tumult, which continued to such an extent that his Majesty's speech was but imperfectly heard, though delivered in a loud voice."

#### THE LEEDS BANKRUPTCY COURT INQUIRY.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

ON Saturday last was issued the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into all the circumstances connected with the resignation of Mr. Henry Sedgwick Wilde as Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy at Leeds, the granting him a pension, the appointment of Mr. Welch to the said office, and whether he was to resign his appointment in favour of the Hon. Richard Bethell and receive another appointment in London.

The Committee state at the outset that their difficulties have been greatly increased by the extremely unsatisfactory and contradictory nature of much of the evidence which has been brought before them. The report then enters into a statement of the facts on the first head—namely, the circumstances connected with Mr. Wilde's resignation. The Committee are decidedly of opinion that the charges mentioned in a letter of Mr. Miller, the Chief Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy, dated the 16th of May, supported by the joint report of Messrs. Ayrton and Harding and the separate report of Mr. Ayrton, however explained or palliated by Mr. Wilde in his statement and examination, fully justified the Lord Chancellor in calling on Mr. Wilde to show cause in open court why he should not be dismissed. On the 26th of July (26th of June?) Mr. Miller sent the following letter to Mr. Wilde:—

Court of Bankruptcy, July 26 (June 26?), 1864.

Sir,—It grieves me much to inform you that, unless I hear in course of post that you mean to apply to be allowed to retire, I have instructions from the Lord Chancellor to serve you with notice to appear before him publicly in open court, and show cause why you should not be dismissed from your office of registrar. It is said that your state of health is such that you can have no difficulty in obtaining such a medical certificate as would entitle you to retire under the 33rd section of the Bankruptcy Act, 1861; and, if this be so, I sincerely trust, for your own sake, that you will see the propriety of relieving the Chancellor from the very disagreeable, and indeed painful, duty which is thrust upon him.

I am, &c.,

J. F. MILLER.

H. S. Wilde, Esq.

Mr. Miller states that the first part of this letter, including the passage as to the course of post and the application to retire, was strictly in accordance with the directions of the Lord Chancellor; but that for the second part he had no instructions—he added it as a mere matter of kindness to Mr. Wilde; and "he seems to have considered that to avoid a public hearing in court would be not only desirable for Mr. Wilde's sake, but also acceptable to the Lord Chancellor; and that the suggestion of retirement (in the sense of retirement with a pension if a case for a pension could be made out) was intended by the Lord Chancellor." The Lord Chancellor distinctly denies that he gave Mr. Miller any authority to connect the notice to Mr. Wilde with anything about his retiring; but his Lordship adds:—

It is just possible I may have said to Mr. Miller in conversation unless he resigns I have no other alternative than to bring him into court. I must have him in court for the purpose of considering whether he ought or ought not to be dismissed, but I will accept his resignation if he makes it. Mr. Miller had no instruction from me to do anything but to give him notice to appear; but it is undoubtedly possible that I may have said to Mr. Miller that I would accept his resignation—meaning resignation without any pension.

The letter was not shown to the Lord Chancellor before it was sent; and his Lordship, upon his attention being called to the term "course of post," expressed his astonishment to find a letter written in such language. Mr. Miller, on the Lord Chancellor's evidence being subsequently shown to him, adhered in the main to his former statements.

Mr. Wilde sent in a petition stating his grounds for retiring, a medical certificate and an affidavit verifying his statements. Mr. Miller, "after denying that he had anything to do with the petition, admitted that he had himself prepared it." The petition, affidavit, and certificate were submitted by Mr. Miller to the Lord Chancellor on the 30th of June. Mr. Miller states that he called the attention of the Lord Chancellor to the unsatisfactory nature of the certificate, but this the Lord Chancellor does not remember. Had he read it, he says, he should not have allowed it to have passed.

As a matter of policy (says the Committee), it may have been right to allow Mr. Wilde to retire on a pension; but care ought at least to have been taken to ascertain beyond doubt that there was ground for granting a pension under the provisions of the statute. This was not done; and your Committee think it their duty to express their opinion that the pension was granted hastily and without due examination. Such haste and want of caution necessarily give rise to a suspicion that a vacancy in the office is the object sought, rather than justice to the officer or the public. In this instance, however, your Committee consider that no improper motives are imputed to the Lord Chancellor.

The Committee add that they cannot but regret extremely that such a letter as that of June 26 should have been written by the Chief Registrar, not merely on account of the impropriety of its terms, but because the suggestion of retirement probably induced Mr. Wilde to apply at once for a pension, and thus frustrate the Lord Chancellor's declared intention of having the charge against Mr. Wilde publicly heard in court. Mr. Wilde pressed your Committee to enter upon a further investigation of these charges; but, as there appeared to your Committee to be no ground whatever for any suspicion that there had been any improper motive for preferring the charges against Mr. Wilde; and as, moreover, the reports and documents (including Mr. Wilde's own explanatory statement) clearly supported those charges, at least to such a degree as to justify the Lord Chancellor in calling on Mr. Wilde to answer them in open court; and further, as Mr. Wilde had himself chosen to retire on a pension rather than submit to a public inquiry into his conduct, your Committee refused to prolong an investigation which, whatever its result might have been, must have been far less satisfactory in its nature than that which Mr. Wilde had declined.

With regard to the appointment of Mr. Welch, the committee are satisfied that no imputation can fairly be made against the Lord Chancellor with regard to this appointment; but they proceed to call attention to some remarkable evidence touching this part of their inquiry. The evidence relates to money transactions between Mr. Bethell and Mr. Welch, in which, according to the evidence of the Rev. G. R. Harding, Vicar of St. Ann's, Wandsworth, who acted as Mr. Bethell's friend in the matter, it was agreed that Mr. Welch should pay down £500 to Mr. Bethell to use his influence to procure an appointment from his father in favour of Mr. Welch, and on obtaining an appointment should pay £1000 more. Mr. Welch admits that he lent £500, with the hope that Mr. Bethell would exercise influence with the Lord Chancellor in obtaining an appointment for him. He further states that he was in the habit of lending money to persons possessing influence, in order to obtain their assistance. Mr. Bethell says that he may have told Welch that, if he saw there was any reasonable chance of succeeding, he would mention his name to the Lord Chancellor; but beyond that made no direct promise. The amount of the "loans" from Mr. Welch to Mr. Bethell appears to have reached, between May 6, 1864, and April 30, 1865, in all £1050, without interest. Mr. Bethell says that Mr. Harding's statement is a pure invention; he also says, "Mr. Harding sought me out and threatened that, unless I gave him money or induced Mr. Welch to give him money, he would come down here and ruin us both." Mr. Harding, on the other hand, says that he used no threats to Mr. Bethell, but that Mr. Bethell said, "If you appear and give evidence I will shoot you." The Committee give the more prominent facts or statements bearing on this matter. For minute details they refer to the evidence of the parties concerned. "The statement of Mr. Harding," says the report, "is irreconcilable with that of Mr. Bethell and Mr. Welch. Mr. Harding's statement, if true, discloses a corrupt bargain between the three parties; if false, it is a gross attempt at extortion. One or other of these conclusions would be established by a judicial investigation of the facts of the case; but as each of them involves the liability to a charge of a highly penal character, your Committee, not having the opportunity of examining witnesses upon oath, or of bringing the persons inculpated to a formal trial, purposely abstain from expressing any opinion as to which of the two views above mentioned ought to be adopted. They consider it their duty to observe that the indisputable facts are such as to render it essential to the public interest that the case should, as soon as possible, be made the subject of legal investigation."

Mr. Harding was, according to his own statement, to have received one third of the further £1000 when paid, and he afterwards actually

applied by letter to Mr. Welch for that portion of the sum. Mr. Welch took no notice of the letter. Mr. Harding then sent a friend, and afterwards employed his solicitor, Mr. Coyte, to write, but ultimately gave up the claim on being informed by his solicitor that he could not enforce it.

The fourth and last head of the inquiry is, whether Mr. Welch was to resign his appointment at Leeds in favour of Mr. Bethell, or to receive another appointment in London. On this point the following remarks of the Committee bring the report to a close:—

"In the month of May, 1864, the Lord Chancellor, on being informed that his son was deeply indebted, compelled him to resign his office of registrar in the Court of Bankruptcy. Mr. Bethell shortly afterwards went abroad with his family, and remained abroad during the summer and autumn. Towards the close of the year he returned to England, having formed a plan for making some arrangement with his creditors, and hoping to be reconciled to his father. Applications were made to the Lord Chancellor to induce him to relent in favour of his son, and give him some appointment. The Lord Chancellor was asked to appoint him to the office of clerk at the table of the House of Lords, which he peremptorily refused to do. He was asked by Mr. Miller to give him the appointment of registrar in bankruptcy in London, vacated by Mr. Slingsby Bethell; and Mr. Miller, in the hope that his request would be granted, but without any authority from the Lord Chancellor, prepared an order appointing Mr. Bethell to that office. The Lord Chancellor refused to make the appointment, but upon a suggestion being made, either by Mr. Skirrow (an intimate friend of the Lord Chancellor, and a trustee of Mr. Bethell's marriage settlement) or by Mrs. Bethell herself, that Mr. Bethell might be appointed to an office in the country, the Lord Chancellor appears, on the 22nd of February, 1865, at an interview with Mr. Skirrow, to have held out some expectation that he would consider the matter if Mr. Bethell could obtain a release from all his creditors. Up to that day he had peremptorily refused to entertain the subject. Mr. Skirrow's view was in favour of an office at Bristol, as being in the neighbourhood of Mrs. Bethell's relations. Later in the same day Mr. Bethell called on Mr. Skirrow at Staple Inn, and probably then understood from him that there was some probability of his receiving an appointment in the country. Mr. Welch was then introduced to Mr. Skirrow by Mr. Bethell, and some remarks passed which show that Mr. Bethell expected to obtain the office at Leeds, and Mr. Welch hoped to be transferred to London. Mr. Bethell went to Leeds on the following day, saw Mr. Welch at his office on the 24th, and it was clear that he was generally understood in the Bankruptcy Court at Leeds that Mr. Bethell was shortly to be appointed registrar there, and that Mr. Welch was to be transferred elsewhere. In the meanwhile Mr. Miller had been informed of the plan, and, in full expectation that it would be carried into effect, prepared two orders of appointment, one of Mr. Welch to the London magistrature, the other of Mr. Bethell to that of Leeds. He says that Mr. Skirrow gave him the information upon which he relied; but this Mr. Skirrow positively denies. Mr. Miller further states that he prepared the order before mentioned appointing Mr. Bethell to the London magistrature, and the two orders last mentioned, without the knowledge of the Lord Chancellor, and that they were the only appointments ever prepared by him without the Lord Chancellor's sanction. The Lord Chancellor also states that he did not hear of these orders being prepared before this inquiry took place. On Sunday, the 26th, the Lord Chancellor, from some information which he had received as to his son's conduct at Paris, determined not to appoint his son to any office; he sent for Mr. Skirrow and declared his decision. On Monday, the 27th, Mr. Miller was about to present the two appointments to the Lord Chancellor for signature. Mr. Skirrow saw him, and advised him not to do so, mentioning what had occurred on the previous day. Mr. Miller did not show the appointments, but mentioned the subject to the Lord Chancellor, who said that he would make no appointment. It appears to your Committee that Mr. Skirrow acted simply as a friend of the Lord Chancellor's family. No improper motive has been suggested for the part which Mr. Miller took, although his conduct in preparing the appointments without the sanction or even knowledge of the Lord Chancellor was highly reprehensible. Mr. Bethell and Mr. Welch were undoubtedly desirous of promoting the arrangement for their own interests, but the Lord Chancellor seems to have had no knowledge of the plan beyond the suggestion made to him by Mr. Skirrow and Mrs. Bethell, and no knowledge whatever of what had been done in expectation of its completion until some time after he had finally refused to make any appointment in favour of his son. Your Committee, in performance of the duty intrusted to them, went fully into all the circumstances which seemed to bear on any portion of the subject-matter. In their report, however, they have confined their observations to those points which they consider most material. They must be allowed to observe, in conclusion, that while the facts which they believe to be established by the evidence acquit the Lord Chancellor of all charge except that of haste and want of caution in granting a pension to Mr. Wilde; and although some of the questions asked in your honourable House, which led to the appointment of this Committee, were founded on information which was not thoroughly accurate, yet the general impression created by the sudden retirement of Mr. Wilde, and the pecuniary transactions which took place between Mr. Bethell and Mr. Welch, coupled with the representations made by Mr. Bethell on his visit to Leeds, were calculated to excite the gravest suspicions; and your Committee are of opinion that the inquiry which they have conducted was, for this reason, highly desirable for the public interests.

THE COURT.—We learn from Brussels that the Queen has accepted an invitation to pass some days at Brussels, on a visit to the Royal family of Belgium, and that her Majesty and the Royal family will arrive at Brussels in August, on the way to Coburg, in the market-place of which town the monument to the Prince Consort will be inaugurated on the anniversary of the Prince's birth, Saturday, Aug. 26, in the presence of all the Royal family of England. Preparations for the erection of the monument were commenced on Wednesday last.—*Morning Post*.

BROTHER IGNATIUS.—During the absence of Brother Ignatius in the metropolis, where he has been preaching on behalf of the funds of his establishment at Norwich, there have been serious disturbances among the brethren of the English Order of St. Benedict, in that town, and the members of the third order established in connection with it. It was difficult to get at the real truth of the matter, but it appears that some of the monks are dissatisfied with the oppressive system established by Brother Ignatius, and are determined to have no more of it. One of the monks has issued an "Appeal to Public Opinion," in which he says:—"Mr. Lyne has been gradually Romanising the ritual, and ruling in the most arbitrary manner, so that while professing to carry out the rule of St. Benedict he has carried out only his own, which he has made oppressive to the last degree. Just before he went away he set forth a new code of laws which he would not allow even to be questioned. We protested before he went against the arbitrary nature of these rules, but our objections were not listened to. When he went away he sent down most oppressive penances to our fathers, to kneel for three hours on the damp cold ground in the early morning, to recite the whole psalter, and to lick up the dust in the form of a cross seven times on the dirty stone floors. These were sent for the infraction of a rule which had never been made, and the monks remonstrated against this, and declared that, as the Benedictine Order was an elective body, he (Ignatius) had no right to make regulations against the order and without their consent. He took no notice of this remonstrance, and we cited him to appear and give an account of his proceedings, whereupon he poohpoohed the whole matter. We then sent a special messenger to London to convey our charge and his suspension till he should choose to attend and answer the charge made against him by the whole body." Thus Brother Ignatius has been suspended by his own monks, and they allege that in revenge he has incited disorderly persons to molest them, intercept their letters, &c.

#### THE STATUARY COURT OF THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.

THE sculpture in the Dublin International Exhibition is one of the finest features of the whole display, and has been arranged with great taste and judgment under the superintendence of Lord Southwell, and the generally excellent effect produced may be conceived from the view we publish of the northern wall. Of course, Italy, and especially Rome, contributes by far the largest number of specimens. In noticing the most remarkable works exhibited we shall naturally begin with the Roman department, in which the aid of the Pope has been generously manifested. Remarkable amongst the first is the veiled statue by the sculptor Lombardi, who is remarkable for skillful imitation of transparent drapery. The Chevalier Benozzi contributes sixteen pieces of sculpture, of which the most notable are "Maternal Love," "Benevolence," and a semi-colossal "Diana." Mr. John Hogan exhibits a plaster bust, and Mr. John Adams a marble statue of "Ruth" and four busts. The Chevalier Jacometti contributes five subjects, in marble, of which the finest is "The Kiss of Judas." Mr. Voos sends the "Fairy of the Rhine" and "Hebe." Miss Stebbin's life-size statue of "Joseph" will show the proficiency of American sculptresses in Rome. Professor Baratta has sent statues of "Meekness," "Summer," and "Winter." Mr. Achterman's contributions consist of two religious subjects; and those of Professor Bienaimé of three allegorical figures; whilst Mr. Angelo Bienaimé sends a life-size "Cupid." Mr. Story's colossal "Saul inflicted with the Evil Spirit," a sitting figure, is one of the most important works in the Roman department. Signor Bisetti's four religious and allegorical figures, Signor Barone's bust of "Rome," Signor Biggi's statuette of "Linda di Chamounix," Mr. Muller's bust of a "Miner's Girl," and Signor Fonzani's "Ecce



Horo" and "Immaculate Conception" are the next admirable works. Professor Rinaldi exhibits four subjects, among which the most remarkable are a "Penitent Eve" and a "Chinese Girl Washing a Negro's Feet"; or, "Labour Lost." Miss Hosmer, an American lady, has sent one of the most beautiful works in the Hall, "The Sybil and Faun." Signors Letta and Majoli contribute religious subjects, and Professor Luccardi statues of "Beatrice Cenci" and "Hagar." Signor Moratilla has a bronze "Faun," and Signor Rossetti a veiled figure representing "Secret Love." Professor Kelli exhibits a marble "Madonna," and Signor Provinciali statues of a "Huntress" and "Flora." Signor Altini has represented Dante's "Beatrice Portinari" in marble, on a pedestal adorned with bas-reliefs. Signor Prior sends the bust of a "Contadina," and Signor Andrei "A Slave" and two religious subjects. Signors Galletti,

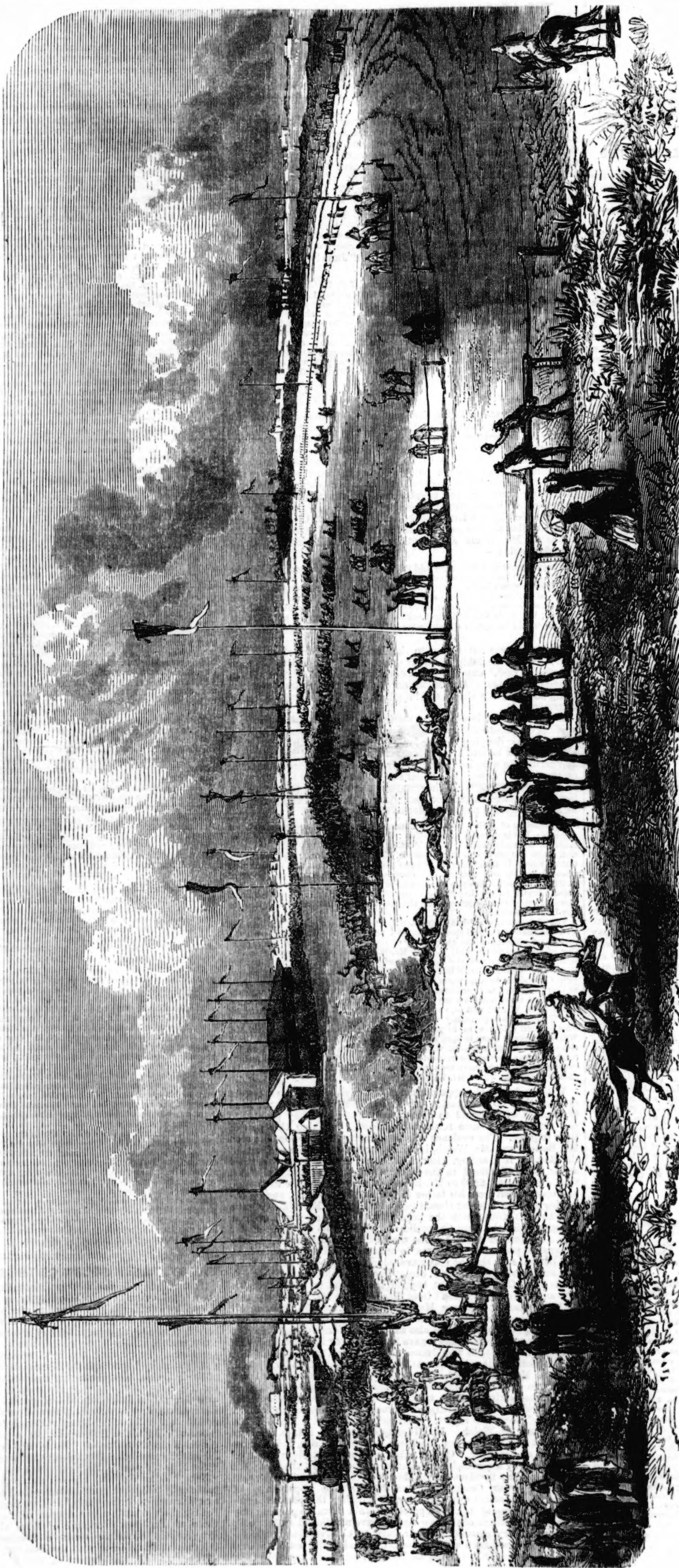
Pandiani's great figure of Camilla, the subject taken from the *Æneid* of Virgil, fascinates every one by its intense dramatic vigour and passionate beauty. Casentini's pretty group, "The Governors," is a refined expression of tenderness and infantile innocence. Other artists in this branch number thirty-six, and the statues upwards of eighty. In the distinguished company of the works already mentioned it is gratifying to find nothing which is not worthy of so high a place.

The contribution of Saxony and Bavaria is exceedingly worthy of observation, both in painting and sculpture, although there are many names amongst the exhibitors quite unknown to British admirers of art. The paintings from Prussia are not nearly so fine, but in statuary there are some magnificent works. "An Amazon," by Kiss, of Berlin, is one of the grandest productions in the hall in point of poetic conception and

skilful treatment. The celebrated Wolff, of Berlin, represents with extraordinary felicity and power a group entitled "Amar." Amongst the British sculptors are Marshall, E. Davis, and Woolner, whose great reputation has been acquired in the production of busts; but Great Britain of course occupies a subordinate place in the statuary court to that justly due to the productions of Italian masters.

# THE BELGIAN TROOPS IN MEXICO.—THE ATTACK AT TACAMBURO.

OUR readers have already learned some particulars of the attack by the Mexicans on the troops of the Belgian contingent in Mexico; and our Engraving is taken from a sketch made on the scene of the conflict



THE RACECOURSE AT ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. BARYE).

where the Belgian Sergeant-Major Tydgadt, commanding the small force of Imperialists, met his death. Regules, at the head of 3000 men, had, it would appear, little difficulty in evading the vigilance of Colonel De Potier and Lieutenant-Colonel Vandermissen, and, not being hampered with any baggage, found it easy to move without exciting their suspicions, and so come unawares upon the third and less important column, which was shut up in Tacamburo, under the command of the unfortunate Major Tydgadt, who had no more than 300 men at his disposal, and was totally unable to obtain information of what was taking place at any distance from the city. In spite of all these difficulties the Belgian commander preserved his authority, and inspired his men with fresh courage to organise an heroic defence of their position. His little troop stationed themselves in the church, whence they kept up a determined fire on the enemy, while an *obúsier*, planted behind a buttress, did good service. Before long, how-

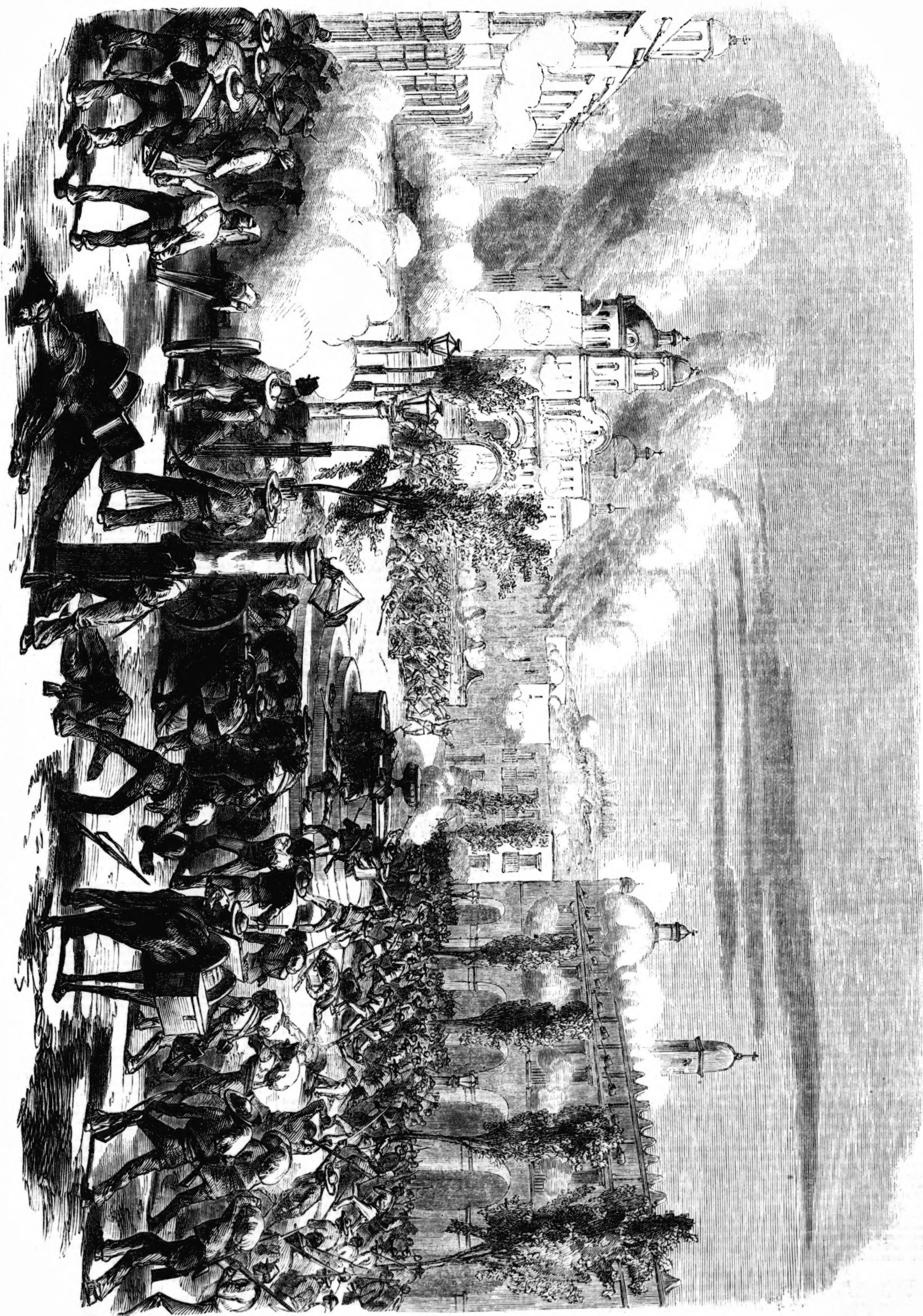
ever, the Janissaries swarmed in such numbers that they filled the neighbouring houses, and the Belgians were subject to a terrible fusillade from all quarters. In vain did Tydgadt repeatedly place himself at their head in the endeavour to fill up the gaps caused by the fall of their comrades. New assailants came from every street, and pressed on from almost every open space. The brave Belgian trallieurs soon saw that their adversaries were too numerous to leave a hope of victory; but they still defended themselves, even though the Mexicans had opened fire from two field-pieces stationed behind a rapidly-constructed breastwork in the great square—a breastwork built up of all sorts of materials. At length the church itself was fired, and, amidst the flames, the Belgian battalion was forced to make a last and fruitless effort. The combat lasted more than four hours, and cost the lives of twenty-five men, and nearly all the officers, including their gallant commander, Major Tydgadt. The number of wounded is not known, as the enemy made prisoners of all who were not able to escape.

## THE RACECOURSE AT ALEXANDRIA.

It is not only in Paris that the love of sport, stimulated by the success of Count Lagrange and Gladstone, has made the racecourse an institution. Wherever a colony of Englishmen or a British military station has been settled for a time, there the national love of "the turf" has led to the establishment of some sort of raceground, even when turf has had to be represented by baked clay and the stakes have been driven into a superstratum of shifting sand. Now that the French have joined us in the pastime, it may fairly be predicted that horse-racing will be a sign of European civilisation in all communities where it is possible to procure jockeys to ride, and that, failing the jockeys, there will always be noble sportsmen ready to don silk and scarlet for the honour of being first at the winning-post. We have already, in previous Numbers, given illustrations of elephant-racing in Cochinchina and descriptions of the Grand Stand near

Calcutta. Our present Engraving represents the course at Alexandria during the heat of a great event. In this, as in many other matters, much that has been stated with respect to Oriental immobility would seem to be contradicted by the rapidity with which the Mussulman is adopting European manners; and it may be cited as an evidence of the progress of civilisation that paretots, patent leathers, and racecourses are established institutions in Egypt; racecourses are already popular, and indications of crinoline are shortly expected. Already the institution of racing in Alexandria, Cairo, and Constantinople is likely to result in the careful preservation of the native breed of horses. The pure Arab is the type of the Eastern horse, and the most esteemed varieties are the Persian, the Tartar, and the Turcoman crossed with the Barb, which constitutes the African race. It is the intention both of the Sultan and the Viceroy of Egypt to preserve their breed of horses without any admixture of English blood; and, by means of these periodical contests, to develop all the best qualities of the indigenous race.





ATTACK ON THE BELGIAN LEGION AT TACAMBURO, MEXICO—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. A. MARTIN.)



# INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 265.

COUNTS-OUT.

THERE is a time for everything: a time to work, and a time to play; a time to count-out, and a time not to count-out. We have always held that the count-out is a valuable institution when used judiciously, and that it would never do to deprive the members of the power of dismissing the House when the attendance of forty members cannot be obtained. Formerly, when a member noticed that there was not a quorum present, Mr. Speaker used to count at once, and, if he could not see forty members, the House immediately adjourned. But this rule has been relaxed. Now, when the attention of the Speaker is called to the fact that there is not a quorum, the two-minutes' sandglass is turned, the doorkeeper rings his bells to warn all wanderers home if they wish to keep the House, and the counting does not begin until the sand has run through. Therefore, it is nothing like so easy to count out the House as it used to be; for, though there may not be forty members present, there may be a hundred "about," as the term is, all ready to rush up at the ring of the bell to save the House. At dinner-time the House often dwindles away to twenty, or even a dozen; but if notice be called to the fact, in about a minute there streams in a body of reserves from the dining-room and other haunts, fifty, and sometimes a hundred strong. This relaxation of the rule was, perhaps, required; but we would not have count-outs abolished, nor even the number necessary to make a quorum reduced. No; the count-out is too valuable to be tampered with. How should we extinguish bores? How should we get rid of really ill-timed questions, which nobody cares about? But for the count-out Mr. Darby Griffith, and some others whom we could name, would talk till not a soul was left in the house to listen to the Speaker, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the clerk, for the talk of these bores is quite inexhaustible. Their matter is inexhaustible, for they can range over the whole universe. We would back an inveterate one to discuss the solar system in a debate upon a road bill. Nor can you hope that their physical powers will fail, for they make no strong physical exertion; but just open their mouths and let the stream of talk pour out in gentle and equable flow, with neither emphasis nor action. Fancy, readers, our having to wait till Darby Griffith's physical powers are exhausted, or the leather lungs of some hardy old Indian! No; we must not abolish the "count" if for no other reason than this—it is the only effectual stopcock which we have to the dreary flow of boring, futile, unprofitable, unreasonable talk. But there is another reason quite as strong, or even stronger. But for the count-out, what could prevent Ministers of the Crown from bringing in measures late at night when all the members, except a dozen Ministerial myrmidons, were gone, and carrying said measures? We have in our time known many a bad measure stopped and killed by the count. Mr. Ayrton stopped a metropolitan grand jury abolition bill in this way. The Scotch members defeated a tyrannical fishery bill which the Lord Advocate was pushing on at three o'clock in the morning in spite of all remonstrance. Trusting to the generally peaceful and unperturbable character of the Scotch, he insisted upon passing his bill, whereupon some half dozen walked out—the House was counted, the bill was lost for the Session, and when it came before us in the following year it appeared in a much less questionable form; and so again we say we must not tamper with the count.

## MR. TORRENS WRONG.

But then it ought to be used with discretion, as all formidable powers should be—to facilitate and promote business, and not to retard it. Now, when Mr. Torrens last week rose to call the attention of the Speaker to the fact that there were not forty members in the house, he was wrong. The House was steadily at work clearing the paper of bills, either by pushing them on a stage or withdrawing them, and, as there was no opposition, nor likely to be, to the progress of the bills to be passed, or the slaughtering of those which were doomed, it was mere wilful wantonness to attempt to count out the House. This the House recognised when Mr. Torrens rose by meeting his attempt with a volley of groans. Fortunately, Mr. Torrens did not succeed. The bells were rung, and straightway there rushed up from the dining-room, and smokery, and library more than fifty men; and the House was saved. The whips, however, for a minute or so were in a dreadful fluster; every scout at command was dispatched, and every hole and cranny was searched for wanderers. And there was a cause. We are, as you know, readers, nearing the end of the Session; every day and every hour is precious; in fact, a loss of a day now means lengthening the Session by a day.

## MR. LAYARD OPPOSES AND BEATS THE GOVERNMENT.

"You cannot serve two masters" is a good saying, and true, as a rule; but every rule has its exception; and Mr. Layard, the Under-Secretary for War, on Thursday night week, was an exception to the rule. Mr. Layard has two masters—to wit, Lord Palmerston, his chief, and his constituents in Southwark; and, though the interests of these masters were opposed on this occasion, Mr. Layard successfully served them both. But we must tell the story. Mr. Thomas G. Baring had to carry through the house the Government Turnpike Act Continuance Bill—Bill to continue certain Turnpike Acts, which without it would expire. Now, there is a certain turnpike over the water which the inhabitants of Southwark do not wish to have continued, but are anxious to have abolished. And so, when this bill made its appearance, Mr. Locke, the colleague of Mr. Layard, at the behest of his constituents, moved an amendment that the said obnoxious turnpike should be left out of this bill; and, to the amusement of the House, Mr. Layard took his seat below the gangway and supported Mr. Locke. Thus we had Mr. Layard in opposition to the Government. He sat, as we have said, below the gangway, in the very place where he used to sit years ago, when he shook the Senate and disturbed the equanimity of the Government with his fulminations against the conduct of the Crimean War. How changed is everything with him now! Then he was the indignant patriot; now he is, and has been for several years, the supple official. Then he startled men by his bold denunciations of Government; now he often startles us by his equally bold defences of its conduct. Such are the changes changing Time doth bring. But, though he has got to his old place again, he is not permanently in opposition, be sure. He is merely in opposition *pro hoc vice*, and by consent of his chiefs. You see Mr. Layard was in a dilemma. "If," said he, "I do not oppose this bill, I may lose my seat for Southwark. If I lose my seat, you will lose my services at the Foreign Office." "True," we may imagine Lord Palmerston saying, "go then, my son. Oppose our bill that you may keep your seat and we keep you." And this is how it happened that Layard was once more below the gangway in opposition to the Government. But Mr. Layard did more than oppose the Government; he actually defeated it, for, upon a division, there were for the Government, 14; against it, 18. But see how fortune favours the brave; eighteen and fourteen make only thirty two, eight below the requisite forty, and the House adjourned, and the division came to nothing; and thus the hon. gentleman opposed the Government, beat the Government—did them, though, no harm, and yet satisfied his constituents. When the bill came on again, on Monday last, a compromise was effected between the belligerents which pleased all parties. Cleverly and diplomatically done, Mr. Layard. It was a startling thing, though, at first to see two members of the Government apparently at sword's point; but an experienced eye soon detected that the weapons with which these two officials were lunging at each other were not really swords, but mere foils with the buttons on.

## ELECTIONEERING SPEECHES.

The fact is, as the above little incident shows, electioneering is now really the order of the day. The Rhadamanthus of the hustings is on his seat, and every soul of us must appear at his bar in a few days. And it is but natural that we should be desirous to make our peace before we depart. When our Parliamentary life was just beginning, we might afford to dismiss the stern judge from our thoughts; but now that we must so soon stand before him, it is but

politic that we should offer up gifts and sacrifices to appease his anger against our past shortcomings or positive sins and secure his favour for the future. More than half the speeches in the house during the past two months have been made, and not a few of the measures that have appeared have been introduced, with a view to placate the great judge. But, notwithstanding all our penitence and sacrifices, it is to be feared that a large proportion of us will have to listen to the stern "Depart," and never be seen here again. Rumour says that not less than 200 will find themselves on the wrong side of Rhadamanthus's book. It is an affecting thought! Two hundred gentlemen who have so long been privileged to float in the light of membership to be exiled, like banished Peris, into the mere outer world. As we look at them and think of their probable fate we are distressed in our very souls. Some of them, 'tis true, have landed properties and money at command, and such can make life tolerable anywhere. But there are others, and not a few, who if they lose their seats in Parliament, will lose their all. The M.P. at the end of their names is the one thing that lifts them above the vulgar herd; without it they will sink back again into the crowd—unhonoured, unnoticed, and unknown. For example, what was Preamble before he got into Parliament? A mere country solicitor, with no society but that which is found in a country town. He got elected, and ever since he has lived in a blaze of glory. His neighbours reverently lift their hats as they pass him. Country gentlemen seek his acquaintance. He is pressed to take chairs at public meetings; and, when Parliament is sitting, he finds himself in an empyrean of which he never dreamed till he got M.P. tacked to his name. He is a member of a club, dines in a gorgeous room, and has assiduous flunkies to wait upon him. When he appears in the house, men connected with the Peerage press upon him their attentions. In Committee, he finds himself in familiar chat with a Lord on the one side and a merchant prince on the other. In the splendid library he can lounge in an easy-chair, and at his command can have whatever book he may want brought to his table. In the smokery, he can "blow his cloud" and hear some of the most famous men of the day discourse the while. The chief whip, a son of a Peer, taps him on the shoulder, and calls him, familiarly, "Preamble," whilst he in return addresses this high-born personage familiarly by his surname. He dines occasionally at Cambridge House, and once in the season dresses himself in Court "togger" and visits the Speaker, either to bow at his levée or dine at his table. Think of what all this, readers, must be to a man who but the other day was a mere country solicitor, living in a dull, dusty, stupid, dreary old borough. Well, now it is all trembling in the balance. In three weeks he may have his lease of it renewed. But, alas! he may hear the word "Depart!" and fall headlong down from this empyrean into his former state, shorn of all his glory, in worse condition than he was before he was lifted to this paradise of delights; for, as Milton has it,

Now the thought  
Both of happiness lost and lasting pain  
Torments him.

## BARK, DOGS! BARK!

On Monday there was almost nothing on the paper for Tuesday evening, and it was confidently expected that at six the House would be immediately counted out. But on the Tuesday morning there appeared an insidious notice about the Lord Chancellor, put there by Mr. Longfield, an Irishman, member for Malton, and also of the Irish Bar; and lo! at half-past six, or even before, there were nearly 200 members present. But what can he do with this notice of his? The report of the Committee has but just been delivered, and the evidence is not yet printed. One would think that he might wait until members got the evidence. But, no; the Session is waning away. Every day members are leaving town. Time is precious. It is necessary, above all things, to hunt this noble stag, and, if possible, to bring him down; and if we lose this chance it may never recur again. This was the feeling of Longfield and his backers, and so the notice was put on the paper, and at the proper time the learned member rose to cry havoc and let slip the dogs against their prey. But he failed. Few of the dogs would follow. Some three or four of them yelped, and barked, and showed their teeth; but Disraeli, whom Longfield would have given his ears to have roused up, sat lounging on his seat, looking at the floor, and was silent. Henley was present, and, with hand behind his ear, listened to the summons, but would not obey it. In short, nobody opened but Hennessy, who is always ready for any game, willing to hunt a lion or a rabbit; Lord Cranbourne, who is ditto to Hennessy, but more vicious; and Mr. Hardy, who is a gentleman, though he forgot himself on this occasion; whilst, on the other hand, Mr. Alderman Egerton, though a staunch Conservative, deprecated this onslaught as premature. The Attorney-General and Lord Palmerston then had no difficulty in flogging off the assailants of the Lord Chancellor. The Attorney-General alone would have done it with that efficient lash of his, which he plied with such power and skill that the vicious assailants of the Chancellor howled again; but a friend of the noble Lord's was assailed—assailed cruelly and unjustly, as he thought—and he could not keep his seat. The noble Lord never forsakes a friend, and, when opportunity offered, he, too, rose, and with all his old vigour, and ease, and force returned the gentlemen opposite "as good as they gave," and better, and then the affair was over for the present. The hunt will be revived yet, though, we suspect, albeit Parliament has only a few days to live.

## Imperial Parliament

FRIDAY, JUNE 23.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Stanley of Alderley pointed out that the dissolution of Parliament was likely to be delayed by the state of private business in that House. He suggested that it would be desirable to make an order, as in 1857 and 1859, so that bills which could not be got through now should be resumed in the next Parliament.

Lord Redesdale said he would, on Monday or Tuesday evening, make a statement as to the private business. He objected, however, to its being handed over to the next Session.

A conversation ensued, in the course of which Lord Derby and Lord Chelmsford objected to hurrying the dissolution at the cost of the private bills.

Earl Russell urged that the dissolution ought not to be delayed.

A long discussion then took place in reference to a proposed increase of the Episcopate.

The Partnership Amendment Bill was ordered for a third reading, after some discussion.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House had a morning sitting, at which several bills were put forward a stage. Amongst them was the Appropriation Bill, which passed through Committee after a brief conversation. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade Bill was considered and ordered for a third reading. The Poor-Law Board Continuance Bill was considered in Committee, and, after some discussion, all the clauses save clause 1 were struck out, thus making the bill simply a continuance bill.

### THE ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE.

Mr. CORRY, at the evening sitting, in calling attention to the policy of the Government in relation to the Naval Reserve, said he understood it was contemplated to reduce the coastguard and the marines on shore.

Lord C. PAGET replied that, since the introduction of the continuous-service system, the country possessed an efficient means of manning the Navy by training boys. They had, therefore, been enabled to reduce the number of marines and coastguards, for whose services in connection with the revenue there was not now the necessity that formerly existed. The Royal Naval Reserve consisted of 24,000 men, whose services had been rendered immediately available, and who were in a most efficient state with regard to training.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords met for the dispatch of private business. There were two Peers present besides Lord Redesdale, who presided. In a quarter of an hour two bills had been read a second time and a large number a third time, and the House then adjourned.

MONDAY, JUNE 26.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Lord REDSDALE said there were yet twenty-four private bills to go into

Committee, but he thought they could all be got through so that Parliament might be dismissed on the 13th of July.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY promised that the matter should have the attention of the Government.

### THE ROMAN CATHOLIC OATH BILL.

The Earl of DEVON moved the second reading of the Roman Catholic Oath Bill, and said he sincerely hoped that, by passing the bill, their Lordships would remove the last disability which now oppressed their Roman Catholic fellow subjects.

The Earl of DERBY moved as an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day three months. In taking this course, the noble Earl observed that he was actuated by a strict sense of duty, believing that it was neither wise nor expedient at this moment, and under present circumstances, to adopt a measure the effect of which would be to subvert—not a compact—but one of the leading principles of the Catholic Emancipation Act, which had been accepted as a full, satisfactory, and complete arrangement of all difficulties. The question at issue was neither personal nor social, but of high political importance, and should be decided only by that which was for the good of the empire at large. Always ready to defend the rights of the Church of which he was an attached member, his first speech in Parliament was delivered in support of the Protestant Established Church in Ireland which now appeared to be a mark of attack; but among his earliest votes was also one in favour of relieving his Roman Catholic fellow-subjects from all those restrictions and incapacities which pressed unjustly upon them. He hoped, therefore, his opposition to the bill would not be attributed to unreasoning bigotry or a hostile feeling against the Roman Catholic Church. If the Government would take up the question and prepare an oath which all classes could take without injury to Protestant institutions, he would willingly assist them; and if they would give such a promise then he would abstain from asking their Lordships to divide upon this stage of the bill. But he could not consent to any alteration of the oaths which did not provide for the security of the Established Church in Ireland and the maintenance of the property of the Church.

Earl RUSSELL was of opinion that the existing oaths afforded no security to the Established Church which could not be given in a less objectionable form. All members of Parliament ought, in his opinion, to be placed upon a footing of equality, and after entering Parliament should have the power of voting according to their conscientious convictions. He regarded the oath as contrary to the intentions with which the Emancipation Act was framed, and certainly as contrary to the spirit of the age. The best course was to give to Roman Catholics full and just liberty, and to rely upon the Protestant feeling of the country and the conviction of Parliament as to what was good for the country and essential to the maintenance of religion and property.

The Earl of HARROWBY opposed the bill.

Earl GREY supported the bill on similar grounds to those stated by Lord Russell.

Lord St. Leonards, Lord Chelmsford, the Marquis of Westmeath, and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe opposed, and the Marquis of Clanricarde and Lord Lyveden supported, the bill. Upon a division, the second reading was negatived by 84 to 63; being a majority of 21 against the bill, which was, therefore, lost.

### THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

The Appropriation Bill was brought up from the Commons, and read a first time.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On the motion for the third reading of the Appropriation Bill, Sir H. Cairns introduced the subject of the training and discipline of the Irish constabulary. A discussion followed, widening in its objects with every speaker, until at last the Speaker had to interfere and declare the rules of debate were being broken. Eventually the Appropriation Bill was read a third time and passed.

The House went into Committee on the Clerical Subscription Bill, after Mr. Haddell had stated some objections to the measure. In Committee, after some discussion, the various clauses were agreed to, and the House resumed.

There was nothing of any interest in the subsequent discussions. The Colonial Governors (Retiring Pensions) Bill was read a third time and passed. The Turnpike Acts Continuance Bill passed through Committee. Several other bills were advanced a stage.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Houghton gave notice that in the next Session he should move that the whole question of Parliamentary oaths be referred to a Select Committee.

Earl Granville announced that the Government had resolved that Parliament should be dissolved on Thursday, the 6th of July.

Several bills were then put forward a stage, and suspension of the standing orders made, in order that private bills might be got more rapidly forward.

The Marquis of Westmeath asked several questions, chiefly bearing on Roman Catholic topics, and was answered.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Colonel PATTEN drew attention to the manner in which the private business of the House was conducted, and observed that the experience had in the present Session justified the continuance of the Court of Referees for another year. With this object, therefore, he moved the repeal of certain standing orders and the substitution of others. The motion led to a long discussion, and it was ultimately withdrawn, and the standing orders allowed to remain unaltered, thus continuing the Courts of Referees upon their present footing and without change.

#### POOR LAW CONTINUANCE BILL.

This bill was read a third time and passed.

#### THE LEEDS BANKRUPTCY COURT SCANDAL.

Mr. LONGFIELD, on moving, for the sake of order, the adjournment of the House, called attention to the report of the Committee on the Leeds Bankruptcy Court, observing that he considered it to be his painful duty to bring this grave matter before the House. After some preliminary remarks upon the Edmunds case, he proceeded to detail the circumstances of the Leeds case, as developed in the report of the Committee, remarking upon the discrepancies it indicated in the evidence, and especially the extraordinary and hopeless contradictions between Mr. Miller and the Lord Chancellor, and upon the singular admissions made by the latter, the keeper of the Queen's conscience. He complained of the stain upon the administration of justice by the proofs of the highest officer of the Crown having connived at the grant of pensions to improper objects, and that such a person should be still Lord Chancellor. He concluded by putting certain questions to the Attorney-General.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, after adverting to the difficult position in which he was placed, observed that the evidence in the case was not yet before the House; that when it was, and not till then, the House would be in a condition to form an opinion upon it, and those who had to meet the case would have the necessary materials for their defence. He complained that Mr. Longfield, who had drawn his facts from the report of the Committee, did not adopt the conclusions of the Committee, who had acquitted the Lord Chancellor of everything except haste and want of caution. He pointed out facts which showed that his Lordship could have had no improper motive in what he had done, and he censured the spirit in which Mr. Longfield had brought the matter before the House. In reply to the inquiries put to him, he stated the course which the Government deemed it to be their duty to take. They would wait for the evidence, and lay it before the law officers of the Crown, in order to ascertain whether there were sufficient grounds for proceeding against any of the parties for corruption.

Mr. GATHORNE HARDY thought the Lord Chancellor had, upon his own showing, grossly neglected his duty, and that the House was justified in noticing the case thus early.

After a lengthened discussion, Lord PALMERSTON said he had listened with pain to the speech of Mr. Longfield, who had not given the Lord Chancellor fair play in his citations of facts. He was pained to hear the bitterness he had thrown into his invectives against the Lord Chancellor, and he complained of the manner in which this discussion had been raised without proper notice.

The motion for adjournment was negatived.

#### DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to a question, said he thought nothing need keep Parliament sitting beyond Thursday week.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat for a few minutes, and forwarded a large number of private bills, which stood at various stages.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Postmaster-General Bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Mr. Göschen, the order for going into Committee on the Tests Abolition (Oxford) Bill was discharged and the bill withdrawn.

The Capital Punishments Within Goals Bill, standing for a second reading, and the Bank-notes Issue (Scotland) Bill were also withdrawn.

The Clerical Subscription Bill, the Turnpike Acts Continuance Bill, the Colonial Docks Loans Bill, and the Marriages (Lamborne) Bill, were severally read a third time and passed.

The Lords' amendments to other bills were considered.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Royal Assent was given by Commission to a great number of bills.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### TOBACCO.

Mr. SCULLY asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it would not be practicable to devise some convenient mode of levying a duty upon home-grown tobacco, so as to permit its profitable cultivation in these countries without loss to the Imperial revenue.



The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he certainly recognised the importance of the matter, but at present he did not see his way clear to the adoption of any decided course on the matter.

#### THE INDIAN BUDGET.

Sir C. WOOD, who was in evident ill-health, moved certain resolutions on the subject of Indian finance, and briefly explained the nature of the measures he proposed.

After some discussion the resolutions were agreed to.

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SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1865.

#### TOPICS OF THE DAY.

PARLIAMENT is to be dissolved on Thursday next, the 6th inst., and by the end of the week the country, from one end to the other, will be in the turmoil of a general election. There are indications that, although no great party questions are agitated, the contest generally will be unusually keen. The Conservatives are becoming tired of their long exclusion from office, and will make desperate efforts to gain seats wherever an opportunity is afforded them, in the hope that such an increase may be secured to the ranks of the party as will give a chance of once more obtaining possession of the Treasury benches. This is the feeling of the more ardent sections of the party; but older and cooler heads do not anticipate that such a degree of success can be accomplished as will give a working majority; and without that they know office cannot be permanently held. Such men as Mr. Disraeli, it is said in some quarters, are not anxious for a small majority, even could that be obtained; because they would rather be strong in opposition than weak in power; and strong in power they know they cannot be. The traditions of the Conservative party are all against it. Its members, whatever professions they make now, have ever opposed progress and improvement; and their very adoption of the measures and principles of their opponents after success has shown them to be sound, is the greatest condemnation that can be pronounced upon Conservatism. The Liberals, on the other hand, can appeal with confidence to the past, and claim a renewal of trust on the faith of previous services. This gives them a vantage ground, which those skilful in political calculation say is worth a good many seats. We don't pretend to possess the gift of prophecy, and therefore offer no opinion of our own on the matter; but would advise Liberals not to be too sanguine, or they may thereby lay themselves open to defeat where they confidently anticipate victory. Ambition of Parliamentary honours seems to be very active in the country just at present, if we may judge by the number of new aspirants for seats in the house who are nearly everywhere offering themselves to constituencies. This is a healthy sign of the times, as is also the fact that electors are more than ordinarily eager to exercise their privilege; for it is always good in a constitutional country that people of all classes should take a lively interest in public affairs. We trust and believe that the coming election will result in the return of a vigorous, active, and enlightened Parliament, whichever of the great parties in the State may have the majority. Let us have a fair and free fight, and let the best side win.

While we in this country are engaged in reconstructing our Parliament, the people of the United States will be occupied with the far more onerous task of reconstituting their country; and that, too, under most difficult circumstances. From all parts of the Southern States the same sad tale comes of poverty, suffering, disorganisation, and disorder. Foremost in the list of difficulties is the question of what to do with the negroes. The slaves are now free, and the first use they are making of their freedom is the very natural one—to them—of refusing to work. Their experience of bondage was compulsory labour, and of course their idea of the enjoyment of freedom is idleness. But labour must be had, or the land will become a wilderness, and the people—both white and black—will starve. Northern capitalists would be willing to step in and supply the funds necessary for the cultivation of the soil; but without labourers their efforts must fail. What, then, should be done? The people of the North dislike having recourse to force to induce the blacks to work; but they have, for the present at least, no choice between that and letting the fair fields of the South go to waste; and to compulsion they will no doubt resort. It is to be hoped that when they do, such precautions will be adopted as will ensure that slavery is not reintroduced under another name. In addition to the negro question, there are the difficulties arising from the reconstruction of the State Governments, the terms on which the seceded States shall be allowed to re-enter the Union, the confiscation of property, the antipathy between black and white and Northerner and Southerner, and, above all, the disorderly conduct of the disbanded soldiers of both armies, who in some quarters are pursuing a system of worse than Italian brigandage. Truly the task before President Johnson and his Cabinet is Herculean.

May they be gifted with wisdom and energy equal to the gravity of the occasion!

Ministerial crises are rife on the Continent. Austria is now, and Spain was but lately, in the throes of such an event. The causes which have led the Kaiser to change his cabinet are as yet in obscurity; and as to what may be the result of the substitution of one set of men for another at Vienna it is premature to speculate. The same dubiety, however, does not exist as regards Spain. The reactionary, and consequently unpopular, policy of Narvaez led to his downfall; and the advent of O'Donnell seems to be the signal for a return to that course of liberalism and progress which has throughout marked the career of the new Minister, and given his country that renewal of life and prosperity which she has enjoyed for the last few years. In the case of the O'Donnell Cabinet we likewise hope that wisdom may guide and success attend their efforts.

To pass from the affairs of great nations to the price of gas seems to smack somewhat of bathos; and yet gas is an important agency in securing the comfort and welfare of mankind, especially in London; and therefore a word on a movement in connection with this subject will not be out of place. The gas question has long been an irritating one to the inhabitants of the metropolis. At one time rival companies and instability of price; now, monopoly and high cost, and insufficient supply and bad quality, have been the grievances under which Londoners labour in this matter. The evils are beyond dispute; the remedy may be more difficult to find. A movement, however, has been commenced to attain the repeal of the Metropolis Gas Act of 1860, which gave a monopoly of the supply to existing companies on certain conditions, which, it is alleged, have not been fulfilled. The wish now entertained is to return to free competition; and a meeting to petition for this object, and to consider how gas may be had for 2s. 9d. per thousand cubic feet, instead of the present price of 4s. 6d., has been convened by the Lord Mayor for Monday next, on a requisition signed by about two thousand merchants and traders of the City. We wish the movement all success, for if good gas can be obtained for 2s. 9d. per thousand feet it will certainly be a great boon to the public.

#### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

A COURT BALL was given at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday evening. THE HON. MRS. SELWIN, eldest daughter of the late Lord Lyndhurst, died on Sunday last.

LADY HARRIET SINCLAIR, daughter of Lord Roslyn, is shortly to be married to Count Münster.

SEÑOR PEYEL, the President of Peru, is a shoemaker by trade.

DR. JACOBSON, Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford, is to be the new Bishop of Chester.

MR. EDMUND H. BURKE, a grandnephew of the celebrated orator and statesman, is a candidate for Christchurch, Hants.

THE REFORM CLUB has commissioned Mr. Noble to execute a bust of Richard Cobden.

SODA FOUNTAINS have been introduced on some of the American railroad trains.

NINETEEN JAPANESE YOUTHS have arrived in England to be educated.

THE STATUE OF THE LATE SIR CHARLES BARRY, by Mr. J. H. Foley, R.A., is in course of being erected in the new Palace at Westminster.

MR. JACOB BRIGHT, brother of the hon. member for Birmingham, has been adopted by the Liberals of Manchester as a candidate, in conjunction with Mr. Bazley.

AN ADDITIONAL RACE-MEETING is in future to be held at Ascot, a clear week after the Newmarket First Spring Meeting.

A TETOTAL FIRM launched a vessel at Yarmouth recently, and christened it with a bottle of ginger-beer.

THE DIPLOMATIC RUPTURE between the Pope and the Emperor of Mexico is complete.

NINETY-THREE BOTTLE-NOSED WHALES were captured in Brood Bay, Island of Lewis, N.B., a few days ago.

WATERLOO DAY was celebrated with unusual quietness in Berlin this year; in other parts of Germany, however, such as Hanover, Brunswick, and Gotha, there were great rejoicings on the occasion.

SIGNOR REGALDI, an Italian poet, has written a letter to the Foreign Minister of the kingdom of Greece suggesting that a monument to Homer should be erected in Athens.

THE CLAIM OF THE PRESENT MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE to the earldom of Kerry, which was adjourned for further evidence, was again heard before the Committee for Privileges of the House of Lords on Tuesday, Sir John Lubbock appearing for the petitioner, when the claim was decided in favour of the Marquis.

MURPHY, one of the witnesses who gave evidence against the persons accused of being parties to the assassination of President Lincoln, asserted that he heard Booth exclaim, "I'm sick; send for Meginnis." (*Sic semper tyrannis.*)

A FIRE broke out at Antwerp, the other evening, in a barge on the Brasseurs Canal, and, the tide being low at the moment, the other craft around could not be removed; consequently, eight or nine vessels were totally destroyed.

MRS. ARBUTHNOT, fourth daughter of Lord Rivers and niece of Earl Granville, while on her wedding tour with her husband in the Bernese Alps, has been killed by lightning, during a violent thunderstorm, on the Schelthorne.

THE DUKE OF BUCKLEIGH has presented a fine portrait of Thomas Campbell, the poet, to the National Portrait Gallery. It was painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence.

AN AMERICAN PHYSICIAN says that the human pulse has quickened from seven to ten throbs a minute during the last fifty years.

THE SAVINGS BANK at CANTERBURY has stopped payment, a consequence, it is said, of the defalcations of an official. The loss is supposed to be about £5000. The bank was very popular in the district, and was intrusted with deposits to the extent of about £150,000. All the depositors are to be paid in full.

A MOVEMENT has been set on foot at Malton to erect a monument in commemoration of the late Earl of Carlisle. The proposition has found warm supporters, and a committee has been appointed to carry it into effect.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON has accepted a marble bust of Mr. Bright as a present from certain parties in Manchester to the American nation. The bust will be placed in the White House, at Washington.

THE HON. CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY was entertained at a banquet, in Dublin, on Tuesday evening.

THE LARGE CARPET WAREHOUSE of Messrs. Meeking and Company, at the corner of Brook-street, Holborn-hill, was destroyed by fire on Monday morning.

CONVOCATION for the province of Canterbury assembled on Wednesday morning. The subjects under discussion were the alteration of the canons and an address of sympathy to the Bishop of Capetown in respect to his litigation with the Bishop of Natal.

WEDNESDAY being the anniversary of her Majesty's coronation, Royal salutes were fired in honour of the event, and all the accustomed demonstrations of loyalty were made.

MRS. TYNDALL BRUCE, of Falkland, has given to the University of Edinburgh the sum of £10,000, to found three scholarships of £100 each, three bursaries of £30 to £35 each, and a prize of £20 in the logic class, in honour of her late distinguished uncle, John Bruce, Esq., of Grangehill and Falkland, who was Professor of Logic between the years 1774 and 1786.

A SECTARIAN RIOT occurred last week at Aurraghmore, in the county of Armagh. A collision took place between the Roman Catholics and the Protestants, the former being engaged in lighting bonfires in commemoration of St. John's Day. Seven persons were wounded by gun-shots, but no lives were lost.

SIX DIFFERENT "LIVES" of the new American President, Andrew Johnson, are announced in the United States.

MESSRS. MOXON will publish, at Mr. Tupper's request, the whole of the poetical works of that author, on and after the 1st of July.

LABOUR is very scarce in some parts of Dorsetshire, and farmers are paying 4s. 6d. an acre for mowing hay—a great advance on the prices of last year.

A MANUFACTURER at Vienna went the other day to be married, and, on getting out of the carriage at the church door, he lifted his hat, to which his wig adhered. No sooner did the young lady see the artificial head of hair detached from the skull of her lover than she refused to become his wife, and each returned home.

THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH FLEETS, according to present arrangements, will meet off Plymouth on the 17th of July. After a stay of a week or ten days, the French vessels will visit several of our principal ports, and the British squadron will proceed to the French ports.

SOME ROGUE has entered two chapels in Chatham by getting possession of the keys by falsely pretending that he was employed by the gas company to take a record of the consumption of gas by the meters in the chapels; from one chapel he carried off some money in missionary-boxes, &c.

M. FUSTER communicates to the French Academy a new remedy for consumption. M. Fuster uses in the first instance raw mutton or beef, which is reduced to a pulp and strained from fibrous portions; it is then mixed with sugar, and from 100 to 300 grammes are given each day. Afterwards he administers every hour small doses of alcohol, mixed with three times the quantity of some sweetening substance.

DISTURBANCES of a serious character broke out at Nottingham on Monday. A mob hostile to the election of Messrs. Paget and Morley literally took possession of the town, and attacked the houses of several of the leading supporters of those hon. gentlemen. The crowd was not dispersed until a good deal of severe fighting between it and the police had taken place.

#### MR. J. S. MILL AND THE WESTMINSTER ELECTION.

THE following letter from Mr. J. S. Mill to Mr. Westerton, in reference to Mr. Mill's candidature for Westminster, has been made public:—

Clermont Ferrand, June 21.

Dear Sir,—I very much regret that your letter and telegraphic message were not answered as promptly as I should have wished, they having had to be forwarded to me here.

I have no objection whatever to attending meetings of the committee, or even of the electors, other than those which I stated in my answer to a letter which Mr. Chadwick wrote to me on the subject, at the request, as I understood, of the committee. But, I confess, the reason you now give for desiring me to come over and meet the committee operates on my mind the reverse way. I should never, for my own part, think of taking any notice of a charge of irreligion brought by the *Record* and the *Morning Advertiser*. They are ready to bring such a charge against the most pious man in England, if he does not agree in their narrow-minded and thoroughly un-Christian notions of religion. And my attending a meeting just at present would scarcely promote the purpose for which you suggest it, since I should positively and deliberately refuse to allow myself to be interrogated on any subject whatever of purely religious opinion. I do this on principle. I conceive that no one has any right to question another on his religious opinions; that the tree ought to be judged, and only can be judged, by its fruits; and I hold myself bound, not for my own sake, for it is my practice to speak my opinions very plainly, but for the sake of future candidates, not to do anything that may facilitate raising a religious cry against a person who may be unsuitable as a politician on evidence extorted from his own mouth. The case is different as to my expressed opinions. Whatever I have written and published, I stand by, and am ready to defend; and I defy anyone to point out in my writings a single passage that conflicts with what the best religious minds of our time accept as Christianity. The passage which I am informed the *Record* and the *Advertiser* have fastened upon I maintain to be one of the most religious and Christian expressions of feeling in all recent literature. I am not alone in this opinion. Among many others, one of the most eminent of the bench of bishops declares in a letter in the *Spectator*, of June 17, that the sentence in question breathes the purest spirit of Christian morality; and the *Spectator* itself, a most religious paper, had said a fortnight before, on the same sentence, that it speaks the true language of prophets and apostles. Such expressions as these it would not become me to use; but I am not afraid that your judgment or that of any rational person who reads the passage and the context fairly could pronounce it other than Christian in the truest sense. I am not aware that Mr. Mansel's theology is the same thing with religion, or that to say that I will worship no God but a good God is to be an Atheist.

You are at full liberty to make any use you please, public or private, of this letter.—I am, &c.,

J. S. MILL.

PREVENTION OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Mr. George Hawkins, traffic-manager of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, has addressed a special notice "to all concerned," with the view of preventing, on that line, such serious railway accidents as have recently occurred on some other lines. He says:—"You are, no doubt, aware that two of these accidents are attributable to the permanent way not being in proper order; and it is to the state of the line that I wish to direct your most earnest attention. I beg that one and all of you will use your utmost endeavours to prevent the possibility of this railway being visited by a similar calamity. Be always vigilant, and do not fail to report immediately any reason to suspect there is anything wrong. The public safety is the first duty of every railway servant, and I trust there is not a man in the service of the company unmindful of his solemn responsibility in that respect. Do not fear that you may be looked upon as an alarmist in reporting what may appear of small importance. Always bear in mind that the safety and lives of the passengers travelling on the line are in the custody of the company's servants and that it is the duty of every one to guard them in every possible way from danger."

THE HUNGARIAN DIET.—The exceptional Government is to cease in Hungary on the 1st of July. The general belief appears to be that this event will be immediately followed by the publication of the Royal decree convoking the Diet. According to an Hungarian journal, the decree fixing the time of the assembling of the Diet, as well as the mode of the elections, is ready for the Emperor's signature. The convocation is expected to take place at the end of July, and the opening of the Diet in the month of October. The elections would be made by provinces on the electoral basis of 1848. The Royal propositions to be submitted to the future National Assembly are said to form at this moment the subject of deliberations between the Minister and the Hungarian Chancery. The Vienna journals seem certain that they shall at last see the arrival of the representatives of Hungary taking their places in the Reichsrath, but that expectation is not shared by the Hungarian press.

DEATH OF MRS. SIGOURNEY.—The death of this well-known American authoress occurred at her residence, in Hartford, Connecticut, on June 10, Mrs. Sigourney (by her maiden name, Lydia Huntley) had been in failing health for some time, but had been confined to her room and bed only three weeks. She had attained an age of nearly seventy-four years, having been born on Sept. 1, 1791. In 1819 she was married to Mr. Sigourney, a hardware dealer in Hartford, and a man of much culture and literary taste, and had by him two children—Mary, the oldest, now the wife of the Rev. Francis T. Russell, of Geneva, New York; and Andrew, whose death, a few years ago, was the subject of one of her works, entitled "The Faded Hope." Her first volume, entitled "Moral Power, in Prose and Verse," appeared in 1815, and since that time she has been one of the most prolific American authors. Together, her publications number nearly fifty volumes, many of which attained a very large circulation. A prominent feature in the character of Mrs. Sigourney was her great benevolence. She is said to have made it a point to give at least one tenth of her income to charitable objects.

GRANT AND SHERMAN AT CHICAGO.—Grant and Sherman were at Chicago a short time since, where they were received with immense enthusiasm. The latter was asked for a speech. He excused himself, saying, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am here to-day a mere listener, a mere spectator, like yourselves, and I cannot be drawn into any speech whatever. Always ready, always willing, always proud to back my old and beloved Commander-in-Chief, I will do everything in the world that he asks me to do, but I know he will not ask me to make a speech." (Voices: "Yes, he will.") "Tell him Grant," laughter and applause. Lieutenant-General Grant stepped forward, and, in response to the crowd, remarked—"I never ask a soldier to do anything I can't do myself." (Much laughter, increased applause, and loud cheering.) Three hearty cheers were then given for Grant and three for Sherman. Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Sherman were then successively called for by the huge throng that refused to be denied, and were brought forward, presented, and cheered to the echo.

TENANT-RIGHT IN IRELAND.—The following is the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the operation of the Act 23 and 24 Vict., c. 153, on the tenure and improvement of land in Ireland:—"That the Committee, having examined several witnesses on the recommendation of the promoters of the inquiry, are of opinion that the principle of the Act of 1860 embodied in the 38th and 40th sections—namely, that compensation to tenants should only be secured upon the improvements made with the consent of the landlord, should be maintained. Your Committee are of opinion that several modifications of the provisions of the Act may be advantageously made without infringement of this principle; and, amongst others, that in the clauses providing compensation for improvements made by tenants, the payment of a lump sum of money should be substituted for the annuity provided by the Act, and that the duration of the compensation period in certain cases should be altered; and they have agreed to report to the House the evidence taken." Six of the Committee voted against the above report and nine for it.



**"HUSH!"**

IN THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

We all remember how in the Great Exhibitions which were held in London two or three objects—mostly charming pieces of sculpture—had gathered around them a popular interest, which drew crowds to the spots where they were deposited, and survived (long after the Exhibitions were over) in lithographs, plaster copies of the originals, and engravings in illustrated journals. Such an interest has already begun to associate itself with the charming work which Professor Maginn has contributed to the Dublin Exhibition, and before these lines are printed hundreds more fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, aunts, and cousins will have stood in a sort of sweet domestic rapture before that little childish figure, and have almost begun to share her anxiety lest dolly should be rudely awakened, before they themselves are awakened by the recollection that she, and dolly too, are but marble counterfeits, which only want colour to make them lifelike.

We predict that "Hush! don't wake my baby" will be a topic of household talk, and will dwell in the recollection of thousands of the visitors to the great show when many more pretentious objects will have been utterly forgotten, or have remained unassociated with a single pleasant sentiment.

**"ARIEL,"**

IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

Those who have attentively studied the present exhibition of sculpture at the Royal Academy will scarcely have come away with any very high appreciation of the manner in which this noble branch of art is represented in England. Apart from the general dustiness and dinginess of the half-underground depository where they have been concealed, the specimens (themselves often partaking of the general dustiness and dinginess) are not generally remarkable either for vigour of design or beauty of execution; and, but for a few exceptions, the whole collection might well be left out of the catalogue. Our Engraving represents one of the exceptions, which is due to Mr. W. M. Thomas, who, without having produced a pretentious work, has given fresh evidence, if such evidence were necessary, that he thoroughly understands how to treat a fanciful subject in a classical manner, without relinquishing that freedom of form and artistic expression which are his usual characteristics.

**THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.**

ON Thursday, the 22nd ult., a most distinguished company of visitors went down by special train from Charing-cross to the Great Eastern to see as much as can now be seen of the stowage of this great cable, and of the general arrangements which are being made for its careful submergence in the Atlantic. As this was the last visit which will be allowed to be made to the ship before her departure, great eagerness was shown to be present on the occasion, and a large and most distinguished party assembled. The visitors started soon after twelve, and before two o'clock were alongside the great ship, which, even making allowance for her great depth in the water, now nearly 32 ft., still seems to look even more grand and massive than ever. There is little more than her size, however, just now to attract admiration, for probably at no time during her chequered career has the Great Eastern ever been so dirty, or has her expanse of deck worn a more littered and unsightly aspect. In all directions it is broken up with temporary offices, sheds, and shanties of every shape and size, like the hasty shelters knocked up at the oil-wells of Pennsylvania, only rather dirtier, and if possible more mixed up with wheels, and cranks, and fussy, puffing engines. Stores of all kinds, too, cover the decks, which are further divided along their length with the timber frameworks to hold the wheels over which the cable will run till it enters the paying-out machine astern. A great deal of this

apparent disorder is, however, always inseparable from vessels commencing a voyage, and especially such as that on which the Great Eastern is bound. When ready for sea her appearance will be very different, except in the matter of cleanliness, for clean she can never be until the cable has left her.

The visitors made the usual rambling inspection of all parts of the vessel—saloons, berths, engine-rooms, and everywhere. The great attractions were, of course, the coils, and especially that amidships, where the last couple of miles of the wire were being slowly wound inboard. Two short messages were sent through the cable—one through a section 1500 miles long, another through its entire length from end to end. The battery power used was very low, and the signals, though slow, were wonderfully clear and distinct. After these slight experiments had been completed, the visitors were conducted to the grand saloon, where a most excellent déjeuner had been laid, and to which their journey down enabled them to do substantial justice. At the conclusion of the déjeuner Mr. Pender, M.P., in the course of some brief remarks, expressed his belief and hope that the cable would be successfully laid, and that it would promote the happiness, the communion, and the peace of Great Britain and the United States, which had already so much in common to unite them. The Duke of Somerset proposed "Success to the Atlantic Telegraph," and in a few emphatic words declared that the success of this great enterprise would tend to promote the best interests, political and commercial, of the two great and kindred nations. Mr. Pender observed that they were honoured with the presence of one who had devoted the energies of the last few years of his life in England to preserve the amicable relations between the two countries, at a period of no ordinary difficulty, with singular energy and success. He believed that whatever position Mr. Adams, whose father and grandfather had already filled such important offices, might be called on to fill in his own country, he would be followed by the good wishes and respect of all who knew what services he had rendered and what ability he had displayed while he was among us. Mr. Adams, who was warmly received, thanked the chairman and the company for the way in which they had expressed their sense of his services and for the manner in which they had alluded to his country. During the recent troubles he confessed he was selfish enough to hope the cable might not be laid, as he well knew he would have been overwhelmed with telegrams; but now that the war which had distracted his country had been put an end to, he wished with all his heart that one of the greatest enterprises that had ever been conceived might be successfully carried through, as he believed it would do more than any other agency to strengthen the bonds of union between the two countries. The interests and objects of the Government of Great Britain had all along been to maintain peace, and now that the contest which had distracted the United States had been put an end to, the sole object they had in view was peace also.

The Great Eastern was on Saturday last removed from her moorings in Sheerness harbour to the Nore. The greatest precautions had been taken to effect the operation in safety, and it was completed without accident. Mr. Brockman, commanding the Wildfire, one of the most experienced of the Queen's pilots, navigated the vessel, and a number of steamers were in attendance to give assistance in any emergency. A special survey of the Channel had been made, and the line of the deepest water had been marked out by buoys. Shortly after twelve o'clock, when the tide was at its highest, the vessel left her moorings; and, although the engines had not been used for a long period, they were found to work satisfactorily. The ship now lies in a safe anchorage off the Nore, and will there take on board a further



"ARIEL,"—(BAS-RELIEF, BY W. M. THOMAS, IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION)

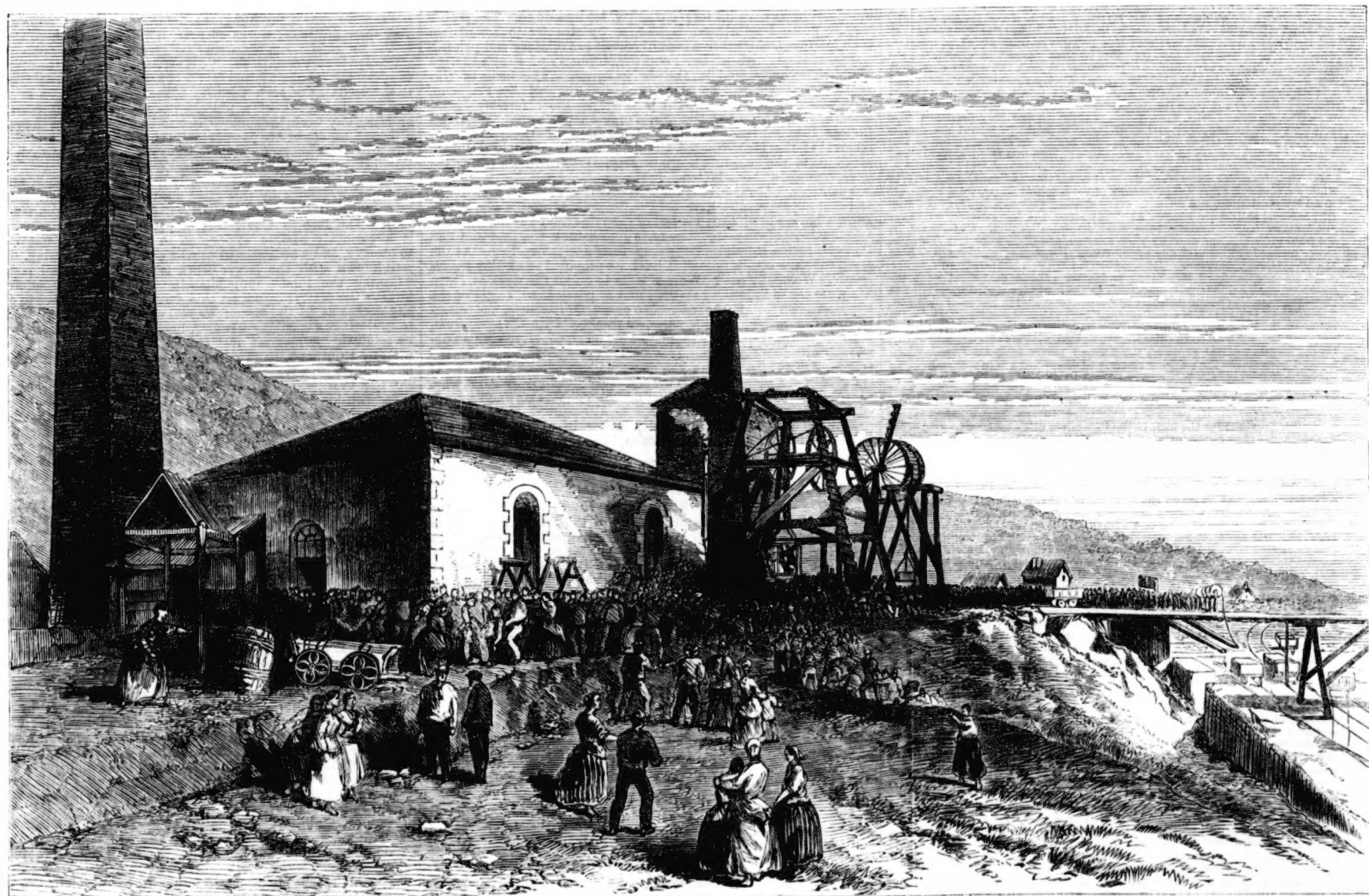


"HUSH!"—BY PROFESSOR MAGINN, IN THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY THE LONDON STEREOSCOPIC COMPANY)





FINAL INSPECTION OF THE THE GREAT EASTERN STEAM-SHIP WITH THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE ON BOARD.



THE LATE EXPLOSION AT THE TREDEGAR COLLIERY: SCENE AT THE PIT-HEAD AFTER THE ACCIDENT.



supply of 1500 tons of coal. Everything connected with the cable is completed except the fitting of the apparatus for paying it out. The machinery for that purpose is on board, and it will be speedily put up. The ship will leave for Valencia about the 8th of July, and will be accompanied across the Atlantic by the ships of war *Terrible* and *Sphinx*.

To avoid all chance of accident, the big ship will not approach the Irish coast nearer than twenty or twenty-five miles, and her stay off Valencia will be limited to the time occupied in making a splice with the massive shore end, which, for a length of twenty-five miles from the coast, will be laid previous to her arrival. This monstrous shore end, which is the heaviest and strongest piece of cable ever made, will be dispatched in a few days, and be laid from the head of a sheltered inlet near Cahirciveen out to the distance we have stated, where the end will be buoyed and watched by the ships of war till the *Great Eastern* herself comes up. Some idea of the strength and solidity of this great end may be guessed by the fact that its weight per mile is very little short of half the weight of an ordinary railway metal. For the shore end at Newfoundland only three miles are required, and this short length will be sent in the *Great Eastern*. When once the splice is made from the great cable-ship to the English shore end—an operation which will consume about five hours—the work of laying the cable will instantly commence. By that time every mile of the cable in the three tanks will have been joined up; and at a stated hour, morning and evening, a series of signals will be sent through the cable to the land at Valencia, and thence to London, giving the latitude and longitude of the great ship, the state of the weather, and the number of miles paid out. The cable will be first taken out of the forward tank, next from that amidships, and lastly from that astern; and, if all goes well, the vessel should arrive with nearly 500 miles of cable in her still unused, an excess which is most wisely allowed in case of accident.

At the bottom of the Atlantic it is needless to say that no volcanic disturbances are apprehended. Along the route on which the cable is to be laid the depths vary from 1500 to about 2500 fathoms. The dangerous part of this course has, hitherto been supposed to be the sudden dip or bank which occurs about a hundred miles off the west coast of Ireland, and where the water was supposed to deepen in the course of a few miles from about 300 fathoms to nearly 2000. Such a rapid descent has naturally been regarded with alarm by telegraphic engineers, and this alarm has led to a most careful sounding survey of the whole of the supposed bank by Captain Dayman, acting under the instructions of the Admiralty. The result of this shows that the supposed precipitous bank, or submarine cliff, is a gradual slope of nearly sixty miles. Over this long slope the difference between its greatest height and greatest depth is only 8760 ft.; so that the average incline is, in round numbers, about 145 ft. per mile. A good gradient on a railway is now generally considered to be 1 in 100 ft., or about 53 in a mile; so that the incline on this supposed bank is only about three times that of an ordinary railway. In fact, as far as soundings can demonstrate anything, there are few slopes in the bed of the Atlantic as steep as that of Holborn-hill. In no part is the bottom rocky, and, with the exception of a few miles, which are shingly, only ooze, mud, or sand is to be found.

#### FRIGHTFUL COLLIERY ACCIDENT AT TREDEGAR, MONMOUTHSHIRE.

We briefly mentioned in our last week's Number that one of the most lamentable and frightful colliery explosions that has ever happened in South Wales occurred at the New Bedwellty pit, the property of the Tredegar Company, on the morning of Friday, the 6th ult. We have been favoured with a sketch of the scene at the pit-head after the accident, and from which the accompanying Engraving is taken. The particulars of the unfortunate occurrence are as follow:—

The men went down as usual that morning, and everything appeared to go on right and well until about half-past ten o'clock, when a sudden rumbling noise was heard by the men on the top of the pit, and it was immediately discovered that the gas had fired. Fortunately, the effects of the explosion did not reach the bottom of the shaft; and through this rather fortuitous circumstance no time was lost in examining the colliery, in order to see what were the results of the explosion.

Mr. Bevan, the manager, the overman, and other officials were immediately on the spot, several of them being in the pit at the time of the explosion. Gangs were immediately formed for the purpose of exploration, and it was at once discovered that the gas had fired in what was termed the "back workings." Forty-six men and boys were at work in this section of the colliery, and by dint of extraordinary exertion on the part of the exploring parties, under the guidance of Mr. Bevan, a good many were got out who would inevitably have fallen a prey to the fatal choke or after damp, had they not been taken out. The first body was brought up in about three quarters of an hour, so it will be at once seen that no time was lost in examining the workings. As body after body was landed on the bank the scenes were most heartrending; for, the news having reached Tredegar, which is about a mile and a half distant, hundreds were soon gathered round the top of the pit. Mothers were seen in tears for sons, husbands, and other relatives; fathers deploring the loss of sons, upon whom in their old age they depended in a great measure for support; and other instances might be named the details of which could not fail to melt the hardest heart. In one case a father and two sons were killed, in another two brothers, and in a third a father and son.

Dr. Homfray, the surgeon of the works, and his assistant, Dr. Coats, of Sirhowy, and other medical gentlemen of the neighbourhood, were at the pit in a very short time, and rendered every assistance in their power. Nothing that medical skill could suggest was left undone, and the sufferers who gave any hope of recovery received the most careful attention. Unfortunately, the fatal explosion had done its work too well, and there were but few cases where medical skill was of any avail. Altogether, twenty-six lives have been lost by this and occurrence.

By the assistance of Mr. Bevan and other officials connected with the company, some reliable information as to the workings and management of the colliery and as to the probable cause of the explosion has been obtained. There are two pits within a few yards of each other, the colliery where the explosion occurred being called the New Bedwellty pit. The three-quarter and big veins are worked in this colliery, and the workings are all to the west. On the morning of the explosion the fireman, named John Jehu, went down as usual to examine the working places, and discovered gas in a cross-heating in the back workings, where a man named David Jones and his son worked. The accumulation of gas was by no means large, but the fireman thought it advisable to put the danger-signal up. The colliery is worked entirely by naked lights; but, if gas was discovered in any place, safety-lamps were then provided for the men in the immediate neighbourhood. This rule was adopted in the present instance, and David Jones and his son were provided with lamps; and they went down with the lamps on the morning of the explosion. It was their duty to test the gas first, and, if it in the least increased, it was their duty to leave the place at once and report to the fireman or overman. These were their instructions in ordinary circumstances; but, when a danger-signal was up, as on the morning of the explosion, they ought not to have commenced working until the gas had been cleared, under the direction of either the fireman or overman. It is feared that this important regulation was not attended to, and that, the gas getting too strong, fire was communicated from the lamp and the explosion followed. How Jones and his son (both are dead) were allowed to go down at all is a question which will, no doubt, be thoroughly investigated by the Coroner and the jury. Forty-six were employed in the back workings, and out of this number twenty escaped, some being slightly burnt. Fortunately, the system of "splitting" the air was adopted, by which every section of the colliery had a free course of fresh air. Had it been otherwise, it is very probable that the explosion would have extended throughout the whole of the workings, where some 200 more hands were employed. The separate current of air going to the back workings was computed to be 18,000 to 20,000 cubic feet per minute, the ventilation being by furnace.

**THE WILL OF A MILLIONAIRE.**—It is understood that the personal property of the late Mr. Richard Thornton, of Lloyd's, amounts, on a rough estimate, to £3,000,000, of which he has specifically bequeathed nearly £2,000,000—his nephews, Mr. Thomas Thornton and Mr. Richard Thornton West, being residuary legatees. Mr. Thomas Thornton is likewise to inherit the real estate. A liberal provision has been made for clerks and servants, and a total of £90,000 has been bequeathed to be distributed among all the principal London charities, in amounts of £2000 each, with the exception of Christ's Hospital, which is to have £15,000. The sum of £10,000 has also been left in trust for the schools at Merton, in Surrey, and £10,000 for those at Burton, in Yorkshire, Mr. Thornton's birthplace. There is likewise a trust bequest of £1000 to the poor of the former place, and of £500 to those of the latter. The property comprises very large amounts of various foreign stocks. The executors are Mr. Thomas Thornton, Mr. Richard Thornton West, Mr. Pulford, and Mr. Lee. On the 15th of September next, Mr. Thornton, had he lived, would have entered his ninetieth year.

#### THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

LORD DERBY is a great man, but of late he has said many foolish things; and here is an extract from his speech on the Roman Catholic Oath Bill, which surpasses all the foolish things which have been said in Parliament for a hundred years:—

"Unmuzzle us," says an hon. gentleman who has lately been returned for an Irish county by the influence of the Roman Catholic priesthood—"unmuzzle us;" and why? Because we are harmless? No. "Because we want to bite?" (Laughter). If a man comes to me with a dog with a muzzle on, and says, "Take the muzzle off this poor creature; he will do us no harm, he is quite harmless, and, besides, the muzzle is half-rotten and affords no great protection," I understand him; but if he says, "This is a most vicious animal, and nothing prevents his pulling you and me to pieces except the muzzle which is put round his nose, and therefore I want you to take it off," I am inclined to say, "I am very much obliged to you, but I had rather keep the muzzle on" (Hear, hear).

And this in the face of a general election. Lord Lyndhurst once set all Ireland in a flame by declaring that the Irish were aliens in language, in religion, and in blood; but this was complimentary when compared to the offensive language of Lord Derby. However, there it is. It has gone abroad on the wings of a million of papers, and cannot be recalled. All Ireland rings with these words, and every Conservative candidate on every hustings will be pelted thence. Lord Derby may be a wise statesman—that I won't dispute here; but he is surely an imprudent politician. It must be mortifying enough to Disraeli, after all the care that he took to gild the bitter pill of Conservative opposition to Catholic claims and to stroke down the ruffled feathers of his Catholic allies, to see all his efforts frustrated in this foolish way. He fancied, no doubt, that he had damped down the threatening embers; and lo! the noble Earl has deliberately poured upon them a bucketful of oil! "Dogs, are we? Muzzled dogs, who want our muzzles off that we may bite? Look to it then, my Lord Derby." Well, he that sows the wind must expect to reap the whirlwind. I should have liked to have seen Lord Palmerston when he read this speech. Unless Irishmen are changed, it is good for a dozen votes to the noble Lord.

Parliament will be prorogued on Thursday, the 6th. It is expected at the Crown Office that it will be dissolved by proclamation, in *Gazette* extraordinary, that day. In that case the writs will be posted that night, and received in every borough and county in England and Wales, and in most of the boroughs and counties of Scotland and Ireland, on the following day. They can be proclaimed on the day they are received, and most of them will be proclaimed on Friday. Three clear days must elapse in the case of boroughs before the elections can take place. On Tuesday, the 11th, then, the candidates can be nominated, and on Wednesday the polls can be taken—within six days after the receipt of writ—and proclamation must be made, at furthest, on the day after its receipt. The borough elections will therefore be all over the week after next. In the case of counties the writ must be proclaimed within two days after its receipt, and the courts must be held to elect members "not later than the 12th nor sooner than the 6th." And so within three weeks from this time the new Parliament will be elected. I think I have already said that there is no reason founded upon law or custom why Parliament should meet before the usual time. Rumour, however, says—I may say something more than mere rumour—that Parliament will be called together in January, and not before. By this arrangement the Speaker could be elected and the members sworn, so as to begin work in the first week in February, as usual.

I hear that it is not unlikely that we shall be spared the infliction of Mr. Ferrand. Devonport, it is said, means to do us this kindness. May the news prove true! for of all men he is the one that the majority of the House would be glad to get rid of; not because he is tiresome, although he is that, but because he is mischievous. Though he calls himself a Conservative, he is really a demagogue—the only genuine demagogue that we have had in the House for years. He never speaks but he has the hustings in view. He promises his constituents impossible things—that their wages shall be raised, that promotions shall come faster, that iron ships shall be built in their docks: in short, as Jack Cade promised his followers, that there should be seven halfpenny loaves for a penny, that the three-hooped pot should have ten hoops, and that it should be felony to drink small beer. If Devonport will do us the favour to send this loud-tongued, mischievous demagogue back to Yorkshire and oblivion she shall have, or ought to have, the thanks of every honest man in England.

I beg leave to caution travellers against cheap excursion tickets in connection with the Dublin Exhibition. I see that trips are advertised at low fares, to and from the North Wall, Dublin. If the excursionist can afford the time and patience necessary for a journey unlimited by any regard for punctuality, let him do so. The proper way to go to Dublin from London is by steamer to Kingstown from Holyhead. All other means of transit are dilatory and painful.

The sudden death of Dr. Ferguson, formerly of King's College Hospital, is announced in the daily papers. The name of this gentleman should not be confounded with that of Mr. Ferguson, the eminent surgeon who still practices at the before-mentioned hospital. On Saturday last Mr. Ferguson performed, at King's College Hospital, the operation of excision of the scapula, or removal of the blade-bone of the shoulder. It was only the third operation of the kind in modern surgery. One had been performed in Edinburgh, and one in Jersey.

You know, of course, that there has been a cab-strike at Paris, and that the old *cochers* have been replaced by aspirants who hardly know a horse's head from his tail or the reins from the shafts. It is said that most of the real *cochers* have gone fishing, and that they find that occupation more profitable than their ancient calling. As the aspirants have been a failure, it has been proposed to employ *female labour*. Well, why not? Women seem to do all the work of Paris. They are clerks at railway stations and at post-offices, chiefs of the administration at all the *magasins, dames du comptoir*, and directresses of everything. While monsieur smokes and reads his journal, madame and mademoiselle look after his affairs. If you see a man and his wife bawling melons, it is always the woman who draws the truck. Are not the French the most gallant among nations? If the gentler sex should sit upon the box and "conduct" in Paris, who, except a native and to the want of decent manners to women born, could refuse *cochesse a pour boire*?

Mr. F. C. Burnand, the popular writer of extravaganzas and author of *Punch's* famous "Moheanna," has retired from the editorship of the *Glowworm*.

#### THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The new comedieta of "My Better Half," produced at the Strand, on Monday, is another version of the French piece played at the Adelphi under the title of "A Woman of Business," which was noticed on in these columns some months ago.

DRURY LANE was very well attended on Tuesday morning, on the occasion of Mr. Leigh Murray's complimentary benefit. After the concert, Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Murray appeared in an *à propos* scene. Both husband and wife were much affected as they delivered the capital and telling lines written for them by Mr. Shirley Brooks, and the audience were considerably touched at the sight of real emotion on the stage side of the footlights; but the scene—a very singular and special one—will be best described by a quotation:—

Enter Mrs. LEIGH MURRAY.

Mrs. L. M. When the full heart is fullest lips are dumb,  
For words turn traitors and refuse to come.

Yet how to thank you? Should the actor's wife  
Tell you the story of his saddened life:  
Of prostrate energy, of wearying pain,  
Of hope renewed but to be crushed again:  
Tell how the Artist sighed to tread once more  
The boards he loved—the drama's haunted floor;  
Tell how the Husband burned to break the spell  
And share Life's Battle (once he fought it well),  
And how, with sickening heart, he day by day,  
And month by month, "his chamber's prisoner" lay?  
This I could tell—  
If so, a moment's pardon, while I bring,  
Our convalescent on—he's near the wing.

[Brings Mr. LEIGH MURRAY forward. He is about to speak.]

Mrs. L. M. Speak, if you will, nor such an impulse stem,  
Yet I have told them what we owe to them.

Mr. L. M. You have not told them, as I mean to do,  
One hundredth part of what I owe to you.

Mrs. L. M. Silence this instant, or I go P.S.,  
And leave you to conclude. Obedient?

Mr. L. M. Yes.

Yet, if they only knew—

Mrs. L. M. I only know

That if I hear a word of that, I go.

Mr. L. M. I'm dumb.

Mrs. L. M.

No, no; you need not look so meek;

On your behalf I've promised you shall speak.

Mr. L. M. Would I had words to thank them, one and all!

Mrs. L. M. Not yet. Attend to me. Do you recall

The conversation when I asked you where

You coveted to go for change of air?

Mr. L. M. I think so. I remarked, my dear, that you

Surveyed the world from China to Peru.

Mrs. L. M. Answer as you did then. Come, choose your clime.

Mr. L. M. Where have I not been, madam, in my time?

Through Cyprus some who're here have seen me walk,

And in Verona's ball-room heard me talk.

Mrs. L. M. Would you like Paris?

Mr. L. M. There I've borne my part;

Surely you don't forget the "Marble Heart."

Mrs. L. M. Rome?

Mr. L. M. I've been there as Antony, you know.

Mrs. L. M. Sweden?

Mr. L. M. I've reigned there.

Mrs. L. M. What's that island—Oh!

Mauritius—Will that suit you, o'er the wave?

Mr. L. M. 'Twas there I fought a Creole for a slave.

Mrs. L. M. Then be content with going out of town—

Some quiet village, near some breezy dune—

Say Chobham.

Mr. L. M. I've been there. Though now he's tamer,

Some persons may remember Captain Damer.

Mrs. L. M. Bath's pleasant.

Mr. L. M. Captain Absolute can tell

That he was quartered there and liked it well.

Mrs. L. M. My list is done. To make it more, I fear

I must go home and fetch the *Gazetteer*.

Mr. L. M. Mine is not half exhausted—yet I trust

To make it longer.

Mrs. L. M. And you shall and must,

Thanks to the generous friends who've cleared our way,

To sunny lands where southern breezes play,

Where, health restored, and life in every vein,

I pray to hear, "Richard's himself again."

Mr. L. M. Now I must speak. My words shall be but few.

[To the audience.]

Let me but own my pleasant debt to you.

My ship is nobly launched. A Royal Hand

Hath kindly deigned to help it from the sand.

Your hands have urged it on, and let me say,

Those of my own dear craft have given it way.

It floats. Farewell! A prosperous voyage or not,

God bless you! This can never be forgot.

[Exeunt.]

#### EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF ANCIENT MASTERS AND DECEASED BRITISH ARTISTS.

THE annual loan exhibition of old pictures which is held at the British Institution is, as a rule, most interesting and valuable. It is quite as valuable and interesting, to say the least, as the yearly display of modern art with which the walls are decorated—or perhaps we should say hung—earlier in the season. Although this year there are fewer works of note, fewer pictures which the world knows by reputation, than we have seen on former occasions, the collection is very creditable. We must remember that the committee, or council, has but a limited sphere of action. Their power is confined to the declining of such pictures offered for exhibition as they do not consider worthy of a place. They have not the privilege of ordering any work they may desire to be transferred to their gallery, although no doubt art-patrons and the possessors of fine old works are, after their generous wont, always ready to listen to any request that can be reasonably complied with.

This year the gallery is peculiarly rich in Vandykes. Of the characteristic portraits by this great master to be seen here one of the best known is the group of the "Children of Charles the First" (50). The face of Charles II. is particularly interesting. There is a curiously lifelike expression in it, which no one can fail to observe, and which sets us puzzling to read its meaning. Equally well known with the larger work is Vandyke's small portrait of "Charles the First" (56) himself. How the loyal admirers of Charles the Martyr could let this fatal evidence survive to clear up any doubts as to the Monarch's real character it would be difficult to say. It is a speaking likeness, but it does not speak in favour of its original. A portrait of "Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice" (51), by Honthorst, hanging near these two last-named works, may be studied with advantage in connection with them.

"Don Francisco di Moncada, Spanish Governor of the Low Countries, with his Son" (39), and his "Lady" (37), are well-preserved specimens of Vandyke's manner. "Dudley, Lord North" (90), and "The Earl of Portland" (18) are also deserving of careful study but the most valuable bit of painting by Vandyke to be met with here is a small canvas, the property of the Earl of Warwick, described in the catalogue as the "Heads of Two Monks" (30), though, in our opinion, it is more like two heads of one monk—that is, two studies of the same head. In this we can follow the great artists' handling, and see with what small labour he could attain to fine effect.

Two portraits painted by Rubens, of himself and his wife (1, 52), may be contrasted, both being hung in the North Room. The first is classically treated, the painter and his wife being seated, in pseudo-classical costume, in a garden, the flowers of which are by Brueghel. In the other the painter, in later life, attired in the dress rendered familiar by the best known likenesses of him, is walking with his wife and child. The little one's figure is pleasing in this latter work, but neither of the pictures seems worthy of the facile, faulty, but yet masterly brush that painted the "Judgment of Paris" in the National Gallery.

Two pictures which will interest not only lovers of art but also readers of Browning are a couple of "Saints" (33, 34) by Andrea del Sarto. They can, however, hardly be considered fair examples of his power, being apparently small panels intended for a casket or the frame of a larger work. They are, nevertheless, well worth attention, and display the great knowledge of drawing for which this master earned his title of "the perfect painter." With these pictures we may class Van Eyck's "St. Francis" (41), a most minutely finished little work.

An "Entombment" (45) by Annibale Carracci is a painting that the visitor is not likely to overlook; nor will he fail to observe a noble picture of an "Old Man Reading" (19), by De Koning. But a study of "Cattle and Figures" (38), over the door, may not possibly escape his attention unless it be especially drawn to it. The name of the artist is unknown—a matter of regret, for the



painting of the ox on the spectator's right is as fine as it could well be.

The examples of Murillo are not happy ones, nor does Teniers show to advantage in his "Card-playing" (11), though there are other more satisfactory works of his to be met with in the gallery. A "Musical Party" (23), attributed to Giorgione, can hardly, we imagine, have been painted by him.

The Claudes are poor specimens, and the Cuyps are by no means up to the mark. There are, however, some fine Ruysdaels, a good "Flower-Piece" (36), by Van Heysum, and a "Fruit-Piece" (14), by Van Heem, which is remarkable for its colouring. Two small pictures by Metz (6, 8) are most pleasing specimens of the Dutch school, the figure of the servant in the "Lady Reading a Letter," being drawn and painted with infinite skill.

In the Middle Room we find two of the best pictures of Canaletto we ever met with, both being views of buildings with figures (78, 80). Two excellent Van Steens should not be missed on any account. "The Drained Cask" (107), with its crowd of anxious toppers watching its last runnings with consternation, is full of humour; but the heads in "The Pancake Girl" (113) are life itself. We never saw a more truthful head than that of the child on the left of the picture.

"The Adoration of the Magi" (112), by Cornelius Schut, exhibits much power of colour with little knowledge of drawing. A "Madonna and Child" (75), by Margaritone, is noticeable only on account of its curiosity; and the same may be said of a similar subject (84) by Pietro della Francesca, with some minute detail in the drapery, coupled with worthless drawing of the extremities and curious colouring in the flesh.

Portraits of "The Earl of Pembroke" (85), a fine head, by Barocci; of a "Spanish Princess" (94), by Velasquez; of "Mme. de Montespan" (100), by Largillière; and of "Lady Gertrude Fitzgerald" (101), an exquisite little figure, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, are among the chief works of this class in the Middle Room. "Rembrandt's Mistress" (109) is rather curious than pleasing; while Greuze's "Surprise" (79) is a simply delicious picture. With this work we may group Sir Joshua's "Nymph" (97) and Guido's "Sleeping Cupid" (86), though the last named hardly deserves a place with the others.

Two groups of "Fruit, Flowers, &c." (95, 103), by N. Vroomans, are peculiarly good, the realisation being complete and the arrangement and colouring most harmonious. In this room also, we find one of Hondelcoeter's large and lifelike representations of "Poultry" (105).

We have seen better works by Salvator Rosa than the landscape here exhibited (111), and better paintings by Paul Veronese than "The Marriage at Cana" (76), or the "Boy with a Racket" (91), though this latter has some very pleasing points about it.

In the South Room the most enchanting picture by far is Romney's portrait of that bewitching woman "Lady Hamilton as St. Cecilia" (141), although this does not do such justice to her beauty as Gainsborough's picture, which was exhibited here last year, and which must always haunt the memory of those who have once seen it. Other interesting portraits are those of "Mrs. Garrick" (126), by Hogarth; of Garrick himself as "Lord Chalkstone" (176), by Zoffany; and of "Richard Heber" (122), by Copley. The likenesses of the two Mrs. Arbuthnots (160, 164), by Lawrence and Hoppner, should also win something more than a passing glance.

The screen in the left-hand corner of this room should be inspected. It contains some small works of much interest.

"A Woody Landscape" (142), by Gainsborough, has some fine passages; and a view of "Carnarvon Castle" (138), by Copley Fielding, is large and clever, though it has just a suspicion of too close a study of Claude's effects. A landscape (136), by Crome, is remarkable for the extraordinary want of proportion between the figure on shore and those in the boat. The effect produced by this is most peculiar.

Romney is well represented by "A Study for the Picture of Titania" (146) and a "Child Caressing a Pomeranian Dog" (145). Morland's "Travellers at an Inn" (149) is one of the best examples of his work we have seen. Sir David Wilkie's "Errand Boy" (152) does not give us the same impression.

One of the most curious pictures in the exhibition is Gainsborough's "George IV. when Prince of Wales" (154), in which a remarkable likeness may be traced to the present heir to the Throne. The well-known "Cottage Girl" (161) of the same artist is also exhibited here.

Two curious pictures by Ward—"Gordale Scar" (117) and a "Tiger Disturbed by a Lion" (171), in which the former animal is painted with considerable spirit, a good example or so of Nasmyth, a fine Turner, and a characteristic Roberts must wind up our catalogue of the chief works of note in the exhibition, which we regret to see is rather sparingly attended, though one would hardly think so, to judge from the difficulty which a duly accredited representative of the press has in prevailing upon the ticket-collecting Cerberus at the entrance to admit him.

## Literature.

*The Domestic Life, Character, and Customs of the Natives of India.* By JAMES KERR, M.A., late Principal of the Hindoo College, Calcutta. W. H. Allan and Co.

Despite the incessant stream of Indian literature which the last few years have called forth, there is much in Mr. Kerr's book that is new, whilst his ideas are generally quite new. It is easy and amusing to see in the Indian literature of two or three seasons how easily the writers have been led away by careless or wilful reports. They tell the same stories as illustrative of character; and, whilst one version will be put down to last year's account, another will give it ten years' grace. And, perhaps, out of the dozen writers, one will be hardy enough to assert himself an eye-witness, and another will have dozed or smoked himself into a region of fancy where many a fiction closely resembles a fact. Mr. Kerr is none of these. Indian life has come in his way liberally, and he has looked at it liberally. He will see much good in it. He will not see one tenth the evil in it which other authorities see; and therefore, although we cannot go the whole length of "white-washing" as Mr. Kerr splashes,

As mortal never splashed before  
Since great Calidasi Polidore,

we cannot fail to recognise an honest and sincere book, which, although very one-sided, is perfectly temperate, and in no way reads like the cheap performance of a paid advocate. The weakness of the book is this—that Mr. Kerr would entirely upset the general belief (which is not likely to be wrong) as to the general character of a whole race of nations, because of two or three opposing incidents which have happened to himself, or next door to his own knowledge.

The native is admitted by Mr. Kerr to be ignorant and superstitious, but not stupid. The natives of a higher class are clever enough, say, at mastering the character of the great civilian who has just landed, and when that is done they can turn it to very profitable account. Your servants, no matter of what class, body-servant or clerk, will cheat you cleverly and moderately, but will suffer nobody else to do so. If remonstrance be made, your estate may go to rack and ruin. In face of these scarcely flattering observations, it is strange to find Mr. Kerr quoting the severe and Christian testimonies to character given by Bishop Heber, Sir T. Munro, Sir J. Malcolm, and others. It may be that India is a country containing many countries, and that travellers may not have been all through it. Each has seen something. Even in little England there is a county celebrated for lying, and another for dark eyes; but supposing that M. Texier or M. Assolant should happen to visit those two counties only, they would not be justified in describing us as a nation of dark-eyed liars. The last word suggests an undoubted Indian national failing. Although it is said to be difficult to get a native to go into a law court on any terms; when once there, it is a scene of perjury from first to last. But yet

"this dreadful state of things is less dreadful than we are apt to imagine. It does not permeate every vein of native society—far from it." After all, the vindicator has not much to say; but a page or two further on, treating of native obsequiousness, something closely resembling a brief turns up. You ask your man how much he gave for a certain article at the bazaar. "Two rupees." You reply, "I don't think you gave more than one." He replies, "Yes; I gave one rupee." You may add, "I am sure you did not give more than half a rupee." He says, "Yes; I gave only half a rupee." This is too much. It is either lying and swindling or nonsense. It is difficult to imagine a man so afraid of his master, or so complaisant to him, as to lose one rupee and a half and his character when there was nothing in his way to prevent him retaining both. In this matter we fear Mr. Kerr has been drawing from the fount of one of those "best authorities" above mentioned. Suttie, and one or two other maniacal "customs," as they are called in Dahomey, Mr. Kerr smooths away as religion v. inhumanity. The natives have more than an Englishman's gift of "tricks of trade," and it is immeasurably more widely spread. They have some gratitude, which is attempted to be proved by a few individual cases which nobody will wish to confute. They have charity—a jewel apparently well set in ostentation. Their politeness is great; but it is of a painfully formal kind, and simply the repetition of a lesson got by heart, like the wisdom of a parrot, and quite as tedious. Their reverence for precedents is so great that when a wheelbarrow was presented to a husbandman and explained to him, he carried the barrow on his head and continued his vocation in the old manner. (Best authority again?) Their industry has always been strongly disputed by Europeans; but Mr. Kerr thinks, with reason, that Europeans engage too many servants, and thus necessitate idleness. One great peculiarity cannot be passed over—the native indifference to pain. Though not brave, they exhibit fortitude up to stoical point. A surgical operation, or the gallows, it is all the same, and "some have imagined that their nerves are less sensitive than those of Europeans." This quality, which may be called passive courage, is more conspicuous from the absence of active courage, and it is the same with all the races of Hindostan, even down to the Bengalee, the most cowardly of all. "What the Italian is to the Englishman," says Lord Macaulay, "what the Neapolitan is to the Italian, what the Hindoo is to the Neapolitan, that is the Bengalee to all other Hindoos." In all probability, this passive courage is but the result of *Khismet*, "it is Fate," a doctrine which seems to have been planted in the aboriginal Hindoo by his Mussulman conqueror.

Mr. Kerr's chapters descriptive of his four educated native friends are welcome pictures, which, together with the many chapters on caste, will be read with interest. The native amusements present only two novelties, rope-tying and *fighting bububs*; so the nobility will do well to emigrate from Mr. Shaw's Windmill-street, and seek on sunnier shores that sport which mistaken Bow-street will not allow. With the simple addition that native manners are changing, and that the consumption of beef and mutton threatens to become alarming, the manners and customs of the "brightest jewel" may be safely left to the reader.

*Eastern England, from the Thames to the Humber.* By WALTER WHITE, Author of "A Londoner's Walk to the Land's End," &c. Two vols. Chapman and Hall.

Mr. White's many books of travels are, one or more, so familiar to all readers that a description of his plan and style must be almost superfluous. He walks as much as possible, although, in the present case, he avails himself largely of boat and rail. There is nothing in which he does not interest himself, and he fondly imagines that no reader can fail to be interested also. He moralises, and sees fun, and is generally steady enough to run away from his subject whenever he is in danger of being led into fine writing. He sees everything; and, therefore, a trick of seeing what must be too much and of wasting time which his readers, at all events, have not got to spare, may be put down as his only prominent faults. In the present instance, these superfluities are more apparent than they were before. The eastern counties make up a large field; but they are enshrined in two volumes of greater typographical density than usual, whereas one would have been quite sufficient. However, the book, like its predecessors, is one which should not be lightly skipped. There is no knowing what kind of pippin or cheese is coming; and the chances are that either will taste pleasantly. The order adopted is that of disorder—without a copiously filled up map it would be impossible to trace the fluctuating route. It is touch and go—long touches and short, and goes to match. Some portions of Essex are described, and then in a second we are at Norwich, and immediately on board a lively clergyman's yacht, traversing rivers that wind about, in and out, like Mr. Tennyson's "Brook." By-the-way, in a series of easy associations of ideas we come upon Loughton Hall, Essex, where Princess Anne of Denmark retired during the troubles of 1688—if that be interesting—which leads up to High Beech, where some more modern life may be found. The following, it may be hoped, is no general example of holiday-making England:—

Even on Sundays the place is as noisy as a fair, and here and there quarrelling succeeds to hilarity, and lewd and profane talk to friendly greetings, and women quite overcome are led away to the "wan" to sleep themselves sober. "I tell ye I didn't," exclaimed a lady in an after-dinner group, as I passed. "I tell ye I didn't," 'twas Mrs. Jackson as emptied the bottle. She can take a drop o' gin, she can, comfortable than any woman I ever see." Meanwhile, another group burst into shrieks and vociferations around a "poor thing took bad with a fit of sterups." And on the road loud shouts salute the reckless riders of horse-races; for here the Sunday is not a day of rest for horses.

The house—Beech Hill House—is more interesting, only it is pulled down; or, rather, the preceding house was interesting, having been the scene of Mr. Tennyson's "Locksley Hall." The "ivied casement" is no more, but the "light of London" is still "flaring like a dreary dawn." Further on, at Somersby, Lincolnshire, there is the birthplace of the Laureate:—

I went to a cottage near by to inquire for the vicarage. The woman brought me a cup of tea to the door, and told me I should find the house at the top of the hill. She had lived there years ago as servant, 'twas her first place; and remembered Master Alfred. And then she paused, as if in expectation; but I preferred not to question her concerning the youthful days of Master Alfred; so whether he was fonder of books than of hoops, of fishing than of school, and whether the neighbourhood thought him an idler or a genius, are questions which cannot be answered here.

Yet not thou the poet's mind,  
For thou canst not fashion it.

The above passage is given here because, when the eye lights upon the name of Tennyson, something about Tennyson is expected. Boy Samuel Rogers knocked at Dr. Johnson's door out of pure reverence—and ran away, frightened. Mr. White is scarcely frightened, but he loiters and muses in the hallowed ground, like Mr. Thackeray to his mistress outside the church gate:—

But suffer me to pace  
Round the forbidden place,  
Lingering a minute,  
Like outcast spirits who wait  
And see through Heaven's gate  
Angels within it.

In a somewhat analogous spirit Mr. White makes up his mind to call upon a certain known and esteemed clerical ex-editor of the *Quarterly*, and in another moment he unmakes it. Such passages of travel are not wanted. But good and interesting pages will be found describing the *Times* paper-mill, at Tavernham, just out of Norwich, the town of Norwich itself, the Yarmouth herring-fishery, and Mr. Mechi and Tiptree generally; but there is very little about Lord Nelson, despite the very great local enthusiasm.

The nature of the generally good stuff of Mr. White's book will be seen. "Eastern England" does not happen to have anything like the interest of the "Yorkshire" or "Wrekin" volumes; but that is no fault of subject or author. Mr. White is ever diverted with Norfolk dialect. Can he have insensibly picked up a local idiom when he says in his own person, "The Church shows but little of remarkable"? For the rest, we are glad to find his old passion for revelling in church architecture, forests, glades, or anything green, still in full freshness. Some bits of the edges of the Eastern

Counties have long been striving to rise into popularity; and if some day they have more visitors than they know what to do with, they will certainly have to thank Mr. White's pleasant pages for part of the dilemma. With his pen he draws sensible people after him, as the Pied Piper of Hamelin spirited away children with his reed.

*The Re-Conquest. A Love Story.* In Two Cantos. By ARTHUR CORY, Captain H.M. Indian Army. Smith, Elder, and Co.

"The Re-Conquest" is professedly only the fragment of a love story, and Captain Cory waits the word of command from the public before he charges again. The story has gone so very little way that to follow it up and hunt it down would be inglorious sport, and so the loves and re-loves of Siward and Heera shall not be intruded upon until there is something like a conclusion made known. It remains, therefore, only to deal with Captain Cory's poetical abilities. In a preface he says, "I have generally adopted a modification of the Spenserian stanza, for the sake of greater freedom and directness of language thereby, as it seems to me, obtainable; but I have not hesitated to avail myself of the roll of the recurring rhymes when I deemed it most (sic) effective." This argues a knowledge of the Spenserian stanza, and a knowledge of the Spenserian stanza should argue a consummate grasp of the chief element, the Alexandrine. But how does Captain Cory treat this magnificent flow of feet? He seems to know precisely nothing about it, to judge from such lines as these:—

— the light, now born,  
Stretched forth its infant touches to awake the morn.  
— the mute features in their pale repose,  
That in nought else do any trace of life disclose.  
To share with Love's own Queen her empire divine.

He died, and to the Brahmin left the maid;  
So the defenceless might be safe in Sanctity's still shade.

But, once amidst the good, bad, and indifferent, Captain Cory takes a fair liberty with the line, and with excellent effect:—

— Summer heat  
Breaks up the broad and solid boards above  
Some mighty river pent in icy sheet,  
When in ungovernable rush the hoarded torrents meet.

Carelessness is apparent in the first page:—

And sweetly blows the soft south wind,  
For buds are on the bough.

Now, the soft south wind never blows sweetly for any such reason; but when, for reasons of its own, it does, the buds are quick enough at coming on the bough. We should be glad to quote some passages in another spirit; but there is really not a stanza that rises above mediocrity, and the whole affair has the fault of being dull. The descriptions of Central Indian scenery are by far the best portions, and the occasional ballads introduced are a welcome relief from the gloom of disappointed love and that eternal "the past, the past."

*Life with the Esquimaux.* By Captain C. F. HALL. Sampson Low and Co.

This is a new edition of a work which was noticed at some length in these columns on its first appearance in January last. The new issue is in a cheaper and more compact form; and, while it retains all the original illustrations, there are now added several new engravings, beautifully printed in colours by Messrs. Leighton Brothers, who have accomplished the task assigned them in a highly satisfactory and artistic manner. Colour-printing is a difficult art, because the various tints are apt to run into each other, and to be too "loud" and pronounced, unless an almost infinity of blacks be employed. But this difficulty Messrs. Leighton have most successfully overcome. All the tints employed harmonise; there is nothing glaring or offensive to the eye; and an air of naturalness is given to each plate, which is highly pleasing. We heartily congratulate the printers on the success of their efforts, which must impart an additional value to an exceedingly interesting if not altogether faultless work.

*The Six-year-old Parliament: A Handbook for Candidates and Electors.* Longman and Co.

This is an opportune reprint of an article which appeared in *The Edinburgh Review* for October, 1864, under the title of "The Five-year-old Parliament," and which has been extended to embrace the principal events of the present Session, while observations have been added applicable to the coming election. The volume, though a very small one, contains a succinct résumé of all the questions which have engaged the attention of Parliament during the past six years, and is full of valuable information of which all electors should make themselves masters. The section on "Why the country should support the Liberal party" we specially commend to the attention of those budding politicians who are only beginning to cut their wisdom-teeth as regards the history and character of parties, and who can see no difference between the claims of one candidate and another except personal qualifications. They will here find sufficient to satisfy them that ideas maintained and defended by a continuous line of statesmen is a far safer guide in choosing a representative than the mere amiability of particular candidates.

A FRESH PURCHASE FOR THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—An increased consideration for the fine arts is the almost proverbial indication of public prosperity. The National Gallery this year partakes the gale, for, in addition to the usual annual grant for the purchase of pictures, we find in the estimate lately voted by Parliament the following item:—"Amount of the savings from the grants for purchases voted in 1862-3, 1863-4, and 1864-5, surrendered to the Exchequer, £9458." That is to say, the unexpended portions of the grants of three past financial years, which, in accordance with the now established regulation, were surrendered at the close of each year, have been returned for the use of the National Gallery. Thus has been rendered possible an acquisition which during many years has been the subject of repeated negotiations, and which a high price seemed to render unattainable. Nearly the whole of this three years' saving has been applied to the purchase of a single picture. The small but celebrated Garvagh Raphael has been bought for the nation for £9000. This picture, originally known under the name of Aldobrandini Raphael, is assigned by Passavant to Raphael's earlier Roman period. It was brought to England in or before the year 1800 by the late Mr. Day, who afterwards sold it for a comparatively moderate sum to the late Lord Garvagh. Of the merits of the work itself, as a specimen of the great master, the public will soon be enabled to judge.—Times.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT EXHIBITION.—The Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have received a letter from the Earl of Derby suggesting the formation of a National Portrait Exhibition, from which letter the following extracts are made:—"I have long thought that a National Portrait Exhibition, chronologically arranged, might not only possess great historical interest by bringing together portraits of all the most eminent contemporaries of their respective eras, but might also serve to illustrate the progress and condition, at various periods, of British art. My idea, therefore, would be to admit either portraits of eminent men, though by inferior or unknown artists, or portraits by eminent artists, though of obscure or unknown individuals. I have, of course, no means of knowing, or estimating, the number of such portraits which may exist in the country; but I am persuaded that, exclusive of the large collections in many great houses, there are very many scattered about by ones, and twos, and threes in private families, the owners of which, though they could not be persuaded to part with them, would willingly spare them for a few months for a public object. The question of one, two, or three exhibitions in consecutive years would, I apprehend, be mainly decided by the result of future inquiries as to the probable number of pictures which could be obtained, and the space which could be found for their exhibition. But whether the period over which each exhibition (if more than one) should range be longer or shorter, the point on which I should set the greatest value, in an historical, if not an artistic, point of view, would be the strict maintenance of the chronological series. I shall be very happy if any suggestion of mine should lead the Committee of Council to take up seriously and carry out, with such alterations of detail as experience might suggest, a scheme which, I think, could hardly fail of being generally interesting; and I should have much pleasure in placing temporarily at their disposal any portraits from my collection at Knowsley which they might think suitable for their purpose." Their Lordships state that they consider these suggestions very valuable, and will carry into effect, in the year 1866, a National Portrait Exhibition generally in accordance with them. They propose to constitute a committee of advice, and to invite the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery to be members of it.



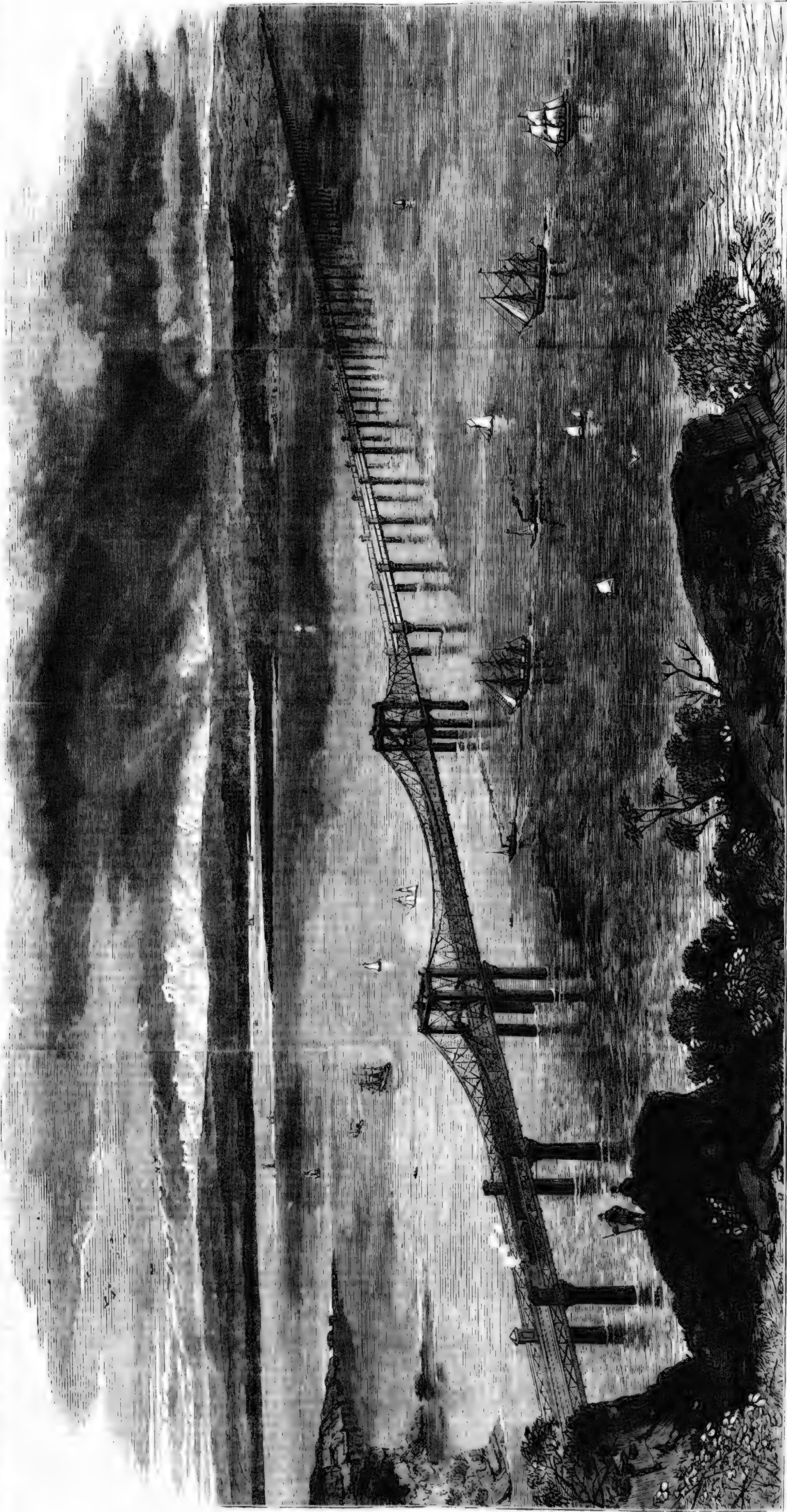
# SOUTH WALES AND GREAT WESTERN DIRECT RAILWAY.

This notable scheme, one of the most remarkable that has ever been submitted to Parliament, like that of the Forth Bridge, rests materially on the engineering evidence, on the feasibility of the structure over a large navigable river, on the durability and perfection of the works, and

on the sufficiency of the estimates at which they may be constructed. A vigorous opposition to the project was offered before the House of Commons' Court of Referees on the part of the Severn Junction Company and by other parties interested in the navigation of the Severn. It was alleged that the erection of the bridge over the Severn, as planned by Mr. Fowler, the eminent railway engineer, would seriously impede

the navigation and impair the facilities of trade to the city of Gloucester; and a long and keen contest took place before the referees as to these points. The views of both the promoters and opponents of the scheme are fully set forth in the report of the referees, as well as the conclusions to which these gentlemen themselves came on the project. That report is as follows:—

"By this bill power is sought to make a railway between the Great Western near Wootton Bassett and the South Wales near Chepstow. "The declared object of the undertaking is to afford more direct and expeditious communication between London and the mineral districts of South Wales than exists by the present circuitous route via Gloucester. The proposed railway would effect a saving of 22½ miles in distance, as



GREAT BRIDGE OVER THE SEVERN FOR THE LINE OF THE SOUTH WALES AND GREAT WESTERN DIRECT RAILWAY.—(MR. FOWLER, ENGINEER.)

between London and Chepstow, and a considerable improvement in gradients, the worst gradient against the load being 1 in 200 in places of 1 in 60, which is encountered by the present route in the Stroud Valley. In order to effect these objects, it is necessary to carry the line across the Severn, and the mode proposed for doing this is by a viaduct 2½ miles in length, which is intended to cross from a point near Oldbury, on the Gloucestershire side, to a point near Chepstow on the other side, and then to join the South Wales within a short distance of the bridge which carries that line over the Wye. The proposed viaduct would be constructed upon eighty-seven piers, consisting of iron cylinders ranging from 10 to 20 ft. in diameter, and 178 in number, which would occupy a space equal to about one fifteenth of the width of the river. The viaduct

would consist of seventy-one arches, the spans of which would be as follow:—

1 arch of	600 feet span
2 arches, each of	265 "
30 "	167 "
17 "	140 "
21 "	138 "
71 "	

"With regard to the headway to be afforded by these arches, the promoters proposed some alteration as compared with the heights shown on the deposited plans. The maximum headway there shown was 9 ft.

above high water at spring tides. It is now proposed by the engineer of the line, Mr. Fowler, to give an increased elevation of 3 ft., making the maximum headway 100 ft., an increase which can be procured at a slight sacrifice of gradient between the Chepstow bridge and the viaduct. The headway of the two arches adjoining the main arch would be the same; the headway of the thirty arches next in size would range from 56 ft. to 98 ft. 3 in. "But while the actual headway above high water would be as now stated, it was alleged, on the part of the promoters, that the practical headway, in reference to the usual course of the navigation of the Severn, would be somewhat greater. The amount of this addition, which was matter of great controversy, will be presently stated.

"On the part of the opponents but little objection was made to the engineering details of the undertaking, except with reference to the navigation, and, although the sufficiency of the estimate was at first impugned, this ground of opposition was removed by satisfactory evidence. The great contention between the promoters and opponents was as to the effect which the viaduct, if constructed, would produce upon the navigation of the Severn and the trading and other interests connected therewith. Upon this part of the case more than fifty witnesses, including a number of Severn pilots and persons acquainted with the navigation of that river or otherwise experienced in nautical affairs, were examined, as well as several eminent engineers and much conflicting evidence was elicited. The allegations



of the promoters were, that the customary, as well as the most safe and convenient, course for vessels proceeding to or from Gloucester was along the course of the channel called the Slime Road, adjacent to the Welsh shore, about the centre of which the wide span of 600 ft. would be constructed. That this arch would afford ample waterway for the largest vessels which now resort to the harbour of Gloucester. That the cylindrical piers would present no practical obstruction, nor cause any danger to vessels, the larger class of which, including all above 180 tons, usually employ steam-tugs on this passage. That with regard to headway the proposed elevation of 100 ft. above high water of spring tides would be further practically increased to 110 ft. or 112 ft., inasmuch as, according to the usual course of navigation, vessels destined for the port of Gloucester must reach Sharpness Point, where the Berkeley and Gloucester Canal commences, within a quarter of an hour before or after the time of high water. The descending traffic is also regulated by the time of high water, when alone vessels can leave the Sharpness basin. Vessels therefore do not find themselves at the site of the proposed bridge, either in ascending or descending the river at actual high water, but at from one and a half to two hours before or after that time, when the water would consequently be lower and the headway increased. That, although some of the larger vessels now resorting to Gloucester might not be able to pass with all their rigging set under an archway of the proposed height, yet that, by lowering their topgallantmasts, it would be practicable for them to do so. That the enforcement of this condition would be no hardship upon the parties, since it is at present the usual custom for vessels to lower topgallantmasts in going up and down the Severn, and the operation is one which may be performed in a very short time without difficulty and without interfering with the course or management of the vessels.

"All these allegations were controverted by the opponents. They denied, in the first place, that the Slime Road channel was the only practicable or the most convenient course for vessels going up with the tide towards Gloucester. On the contrary, they stated, and produced evidence to show, that it is customary for vessels, especially for a class called 'trows,' trading vessels of about eighty to one hundred tons register, to take a more direct line across a portion of the Oldbury Sands, which are covered to a depth of 20 ft. or

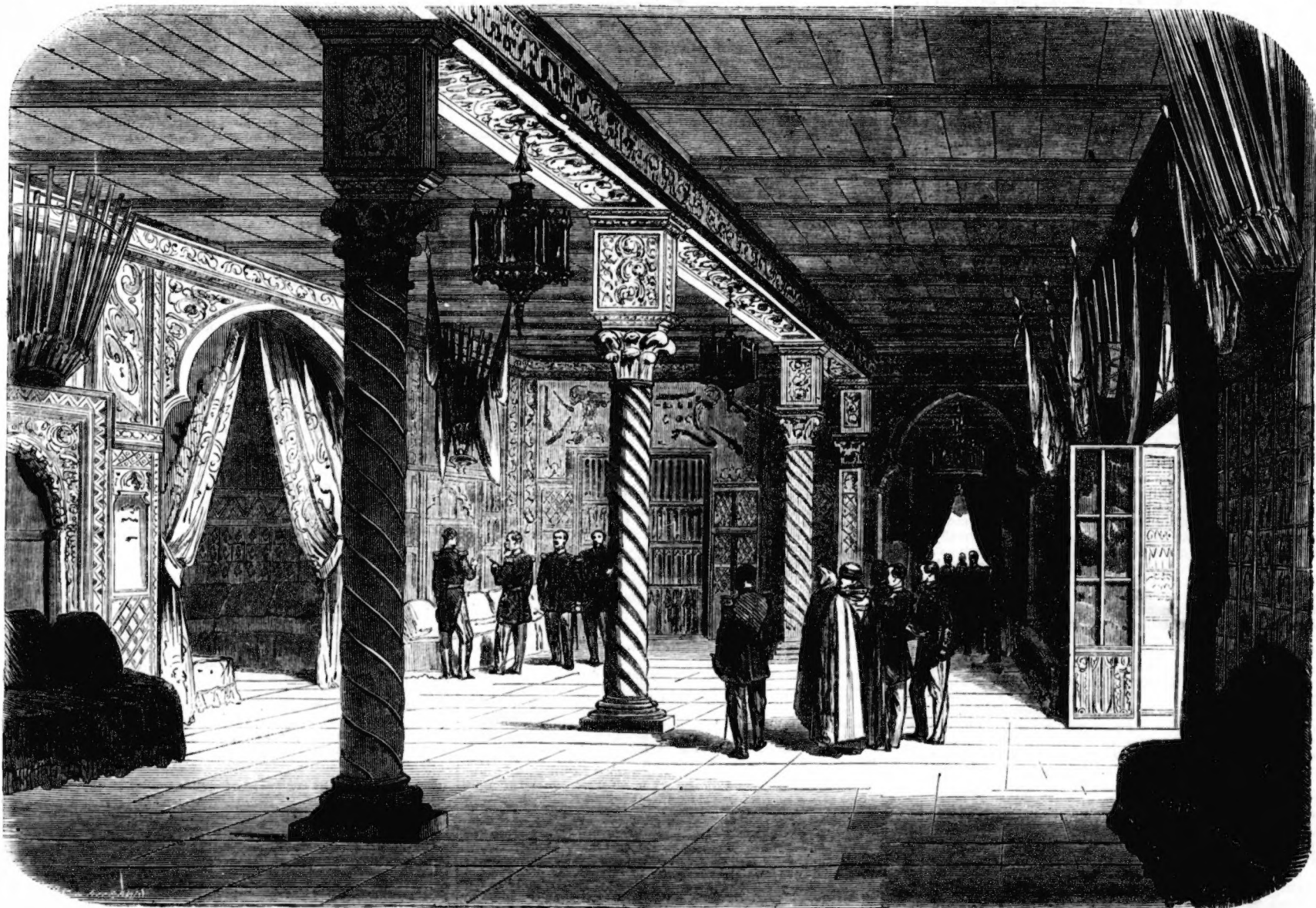
more at high water, whereby they get the advantage, not only of a shorter cut, but of a more favourable current, at certain periods of the tide; that the erection of such a structure across the river would injuriously restrict and impede the waterway, now free and available for vessels; that the navigation of the Severn is already difficult and hazardous, from the rapidity of the current, from baffling and uncertain winds, and from rocks and shifting sands; and that if the proposed viaduct were superadded to the other obstacles the dangers of the navigation would become still more formidable. That, under adverse conditions of wind and weather, there would be a considerable risk of collision with the piers, especially at night or during the fogs which prevail at certain seasons of the year. With regard to the headway, it was contended that the height even of the main arches would be inadequate for the larger class of vessels, some of which, according to official returns, exceed 1,000 tons register, and carry masts considerably higher than the viaduct. That is contrary to the fact that the topgallantmasts of vessels are usually lowered in going up or down the river, the practice of keeping them up being al-

ments of the witnesses, even upon matters of fact, not easily to be reconciled. After carefully weighing all the evidence on both sides, and making such allowance as appears reasonable for bias on the minds of the witnesses, the referees have been led to adopt the following conclusions:-

"1. As regards the restriction of the waterway, the referees have not been led to conclude that any material addition to the dangers of the Severn, or any inconvenience too great to be reasonably imposed upon those who make use of the navigation, would be occasioned by the proposed structure in case the general interests of the public justify the interference. It would add to the risks of the river in bad weather and in times of fog, and it might interfere with the navigation during the night, a practice which is said to be occasionally resorted to by the small vessels. Some inconvenience might also be caused to vessels beating against a head wind and standing out over the sands. The additional dangers which might arise from these causes do not, however, appear to the referees to be serious. The position of the bridge in a straight reach of some



SEASIDE COSTUMES FOR JULY.



THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH IN ALGERIA: H.S. MAJESTY'S VISIT TO THE THE SALLE DES ARMES, IN THE PALACE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.



length, and in a part where the channel appears from the charts to have been for a long time constant, is favourable for the purpose. The span of the main arch, 600 ft. in width, exceeds that of any bridge in the kingdom, and is considerably wider than the actual channel in some parts of other navigable rivers, and, assuming the use of lights and other suitable precautions, the risk of collision with the piers does not appear to justify serious apprehensions.

"2. As regards the headway, assuming, as it appears fair to do upon the balance of evidence, the minimum period of one hour before high water as the time at which vessels going up would reach the site of the bridge, the available headway at spring tides would range from 104 ft. 3 in. to 109 ft. 5 in., according to the height of the tides. The former figure is calculated upon the highest tide ever observed of late years. It is admitted, on the part of the promoters, that vessels beyond a certain size—which may be taken at 400 tons register—could not pass under without lowering their topgallantmasts. The evidence is very conflicting as to the existing practice in this respect, and also as to the degree of inconvenience and delay involved in the operation. Upon the whole, the referees are led to believe that the masters of vessels going up to Gloucester seldom lower their masts, and that they feel considerable repugnance to being compelled to do so. Under certain circumstances, with a short crew, and under pressure to save a tide, the obligation would, probably, be inconvenient, and it might be seriously so in the case of vessels of large burden, when the loss of a spring tide might be incurred. On the other hand, it is enforced as a rule in some harbours, and was so, until within a few years, at Gloucester. It is necessarily done at the Menai Strait, where the height of the Britannia Bridge is 100 ft. above ordinary spring tides. It was proved to the referees that this bridge has not prevented the resort to the port of Carnarvon of vessels of as large tonnage as those which now go to Gloucester. Though the practice may involve some trouble and occasional delay, it cannot be regarded as a serious impediment to navigation.

"One other point only remains to be noticed. In addition to the objections above stated, some evidence was given by the opponents as to the physical effect likely to be produced by the interposition of so large an amount of solid structure in the waterway upon the sands in the bed of the river, and eventually upon the course of the channel itself. The extent to which such an influence might operate was admitted to be problematical. That some effect is likely to be produced by the altered action of the current upon the bed of the river appears highly probable: such a result must follow more or less from the construction of every bridge fixed upon piers in a river. In the present instance, the evidence offered was not such as to satisfy the referees that any extensive change was likely to result which ought to form an objection *per se* to the proposed structure.

"Upon the whole, the referees are of opinion that, if the proposed new communication between the metropolis and South Wales shall be considered to afford important advantages to the public, the objections which have been raised against the proposed bridge upon engineering grounds are not such as to justify the rejection of the scheme."

The estimate for the bridge is placed by Mr. Fowler at £977,000, which is unquestionably a large sum in itself, and only to be justified by the most ample statistics as well as the highest professional opinion, that the cost of transit will be so materially reduced as to permit a wide margin of profit to remain for the enterprise. This bridge, two miles and a quarter in length, is the chief part of a line of forty-one miles, and without this structure, at the precise point at which it has been located, no similar route can be established. The total cost of the undertaking is set down at £1,754,757, with a double line of rails on the mixed gauge.

There being no contest, we may mention, in regard to the line itself or to probabilities of its cost, the whole affair is reduced to the expense and capacity of the bridge, with the amount of damage it may inflict on the trade and port of Gloucester. Mr. Cochrane, of the Woodside Ironworks, and who constructed the bridge over the Thames at Charing-cross, is prepared to undertake completion of the structure over the Severn at the estimate of £977,545. Mr. Hawkshaw speaks in the highest possible terms of the experience, tact, and judgment of Mr. Cochrane, and considers him to be one of the best men for that kind of work who can be had; and he would prefer him to undertake the work in preference to any other with whom he is acquainted.

### THE FASHIONS.

TOILETS for the present month are specially designed for the season when everybody goes out of town; and, although there are some differences between the costumes prepared for residence at a country mansion and those to be worn at the seaside or at the most frequented watering-places, they have a general character which is sufficient to identify them with the end of the London season.

Our own Parliament will be dissolved on the 6th, and then the great migration which has already commenced will continue; the houses of the aristocracy will be shut up, the furniture will be put in half-mourning costume of brown holland, the front blinds will be pulled down, and the only visitors will apply at the area bell.

There are really no Paris fashions at present, for Paris itself is deserted; the Bois de Boulogne is a waste, unenlivened by promenaders or the charioteers of ton; but for the exigencies of regulating some few matters which have been awaiting the return of the Emperor from Algeria, the Court would now be at Compiègne, or even Biarritz or Montpellier.

At Pau, Spa, Aix-la-Chapelle, Homburg, Baden—where not?—the hotel-keepers will soon be driving a profitable trade; the gardens will be gay with the daily assemblies of exclusive coteries; the bands will come out in new and lustrous uniforms; and in the saloons of the grand pump-rooms the clicking of dice and rouge-et-noir will be heard in the still evening air.

At these places the fashions are set by Empresses, Princesses, and Grand Duchesses; and the cosmopolitan toilets almost defy detailed description, as may be seen by a reference to our Engraving, which represents some of those that have attained the greatest favour. It will be seen that the fancy of the wearer is allowed full scope, so much so, indeed, that many of the costumes might well be termed "fancy dresses." The "vestes russes" without sleeves, which appeared in some elegant toilets last winter, but were not much worn, are, now that the summer has set in, almost universally adopted, and form a charming and effective addition to any costume. They may be either simple or elegant, of black or white lace, with fancy trimmings and ribbons, or of cashmere, bound with a bright coloured band of the same material. These vestes are worn over a corsage of muslin, foulard, or nanook, and also with the "chemise russe," which has so long obtained great favour in fashionable circles.

We will describe a charming costume for a young lady in which the chemise russe was of white foulard with a small spot of blue, the collar and revers of the sleeves of blue taffeta. The skirt, of silver-grey lino, had a band of blue taffeta edged with black velvet; a sash of blue completed this simple and elegant toilet.

Another dress was of striped silk gauze, with a silk band of the same colour as the stripes; the body is made low, and has a ceinture fastened in front by a large ornament, either of silk or steel, which is still much worn. The sleeves are narrow and trimmed to correspond.

A pretty dinner dress was of muslin, with trimmings of black guipure over blue taffeta; the body was low and the sleeves puffed and short, and were ornamented in the same way. A sash with long ends of blue taffeta and black guipure.

We must not omit to mention the garden hoods worn by the figures on the left in our Engraving. They are made of many materials; but the most useful are of cashmere or of coloured flannel, trimmed with black velvet. Hats of all shapes are, of course, in vogue. We have noticed that many are turned up at each side; they are of Italian straw, and are trimmed with maize ribbon and ornaments of straw and jet. Another very pretty style is of rice straw studded with jet beads, a wreath of field flowers over a band

of blue and black ribbon; in the front, a bird resting in a bouquet of flowers.

Square veils are likely to be worn with walking-dress.

Children are dressed with great taste and elegance. We have very much admired the following costume for a little girl. Dress of white alpaca, trimmed with quillings and bows of blue ribbon, the body made quite low, and worn with a pleated muslin chemisette; sash of blue, tied in a bow at the back. The paletot, of the same material, was made without sleeves, and had a bow of ribbon at the shoulder. A small Chinese-shaped hat, with aigrette and long ends of ribbon, completed this toilet.

Little boys still wear the knickerbocker suit, but they are much tighter and closer fitting than formerly; indeed, we have seen some that might almost be said to approach the old-fashioned pantaloons.

Light cloths and coloured piqués, with black braiding, are some of the materials employed. We have spoken, in our last review of the "Fashions," of the very becoming style of wearing a belt outside the paletot. We may mention that a new waistband of russet leather, with buckle of the same, and aumonière on the left side—the whole studded with steel buttons—is very fashionable.

Short circular mantles of the same material as the dresses will be worn this summer. A dress of white foulard, with blue or green trimmings, looks exceedingly effective, with the addition of a short mantle of this description.

### THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH AT CONSTANTINE.

OUR Engraving represents one of the latest visits paid by the Emperor of the French previous to his return from his travels in Algeria. After a voyage of about twenty-two hours his Majesty arrived in the Bay of Stora, and disembarked at Philipville beneath a pavilion, where he was received by the civic authorities and a select party of ladies and young girls before proceeding on his journey to Constantine. This city of Constantine, which is the capital of the province, was called Cirta, or Sittianorum, before the time of Constantine the Great, who named it after himself. It is situated beyond the Little Atlas, forty-eight miles from the sea, and its ruins prove it to have been one of the principal places in Numidia. Its position was always one of considerable strength, the greater part of the city standing on a high rocky promontory, inaccessible on all sides except on the S.W., where it joins the continent. This promontory is a mile in circumference, sloping towards the south, but ending northwards in a perpendicular precipice of 600 ft., which commands a delightful and extensive view over valleys, mountains, and rivers, the prospect being bounded on the east by a great ridge of rocks considerably higher than the city itself. Away to the south-east the open country terminates in a distant view of the mountains of Sidi Rougeese and Ziguaneah, and in this direction the promontory is separated from the mainland by a deep, narrow valley, with perpendicular cliffs on both sides, where the impetuous torrent of the Rhummel, flowing from a cascade, runs along this ravine as far as the Casbah, where it forms a new cascade, called the Tortoise Fall, and then leaves the city in a northward direction. At a point called El-Kant'ra the river takes a subterranean course, and after again emerging disappears underground. In this manner it is lost sight of four times, being concealed beneath a natural bridge of from 164 to 328 ft. in width.

The ancient bridge of El-Kant'ra, which rested on three tiers of arches, the lowest of which was Roman, has recently been reconstructed by M. George Martin, and now consists of a gigantic iron arch, spanning the chasm between the city and the mountain.

Looking down from the Casbah, an old fortress which commands the city from the north, the corn-mills and gardens on the banks of the river are very picturesque in appearance; but, like all Algerian cities, Constantine is best appreciated at a distance. Its streets—notwithstanding the squares and boulevards formed by the French—are narrow, winding, and steep. The best of the houses are built of Roman remains. The industry of the town is considerable, the principal manufactures being woollen goods, coarse cloth, and leather, including saddlery. The artisans' quarter is situated in the suburb beyond the Babel-Ouad, or Water-gate. The principal wealth of the city arises, however, from the natural products cultivated in the surrounding country. The street of the Jews is not a little remarkable, from its overhanging vines and the shade thrown by its numerous trees.

There are thirteen principal mosques in Constantine, besides a number of inferior places of worship; but the most remarkable of the public buildings is the Old Palace of the Bey Ahmed, which, like many buildings in the city, is rich in antiques; since, before the French conquest, its former owner had employed in its decoration the columns and ornaments of the finest buildings in the province, including the ruins of ancient Cirta, some of which still remain on the former site near the valley. This building—supported in front by magnificent marble columns, ornamented with superb coloured facings, mosaics, and mysterious arabesques—is of the true Moorish pattern, its hall leading to silent vestibules and twilight galleries. But the most superb apartment of the palace is the Salle des Armes, where the Emperor was received by the Governor of the Province, who has made the place his residence.

The reception of his Majesty by the people of Constantine was enthusiastic, although not a little peculiar. First, he had to pass near a triumphal arch erected by the mercantile community. This was an imposing monument, built up of the produce of the district, and consisting of sacks of wheat, bales of wool, bundles of straw, on which was displayed a superstructure of lighter articles, such as fruit and vegetables, while the monogram was traced in white cotton on a background of black wool. Under another arch, raised by the civilians, the Emperor was saluted by the inhabitants, and received the keys, together with a florid harangue from the Mayor.

The trophy of the Mussulman population—a plain Mauresque structure—was also favoured with a visit, and his Majesty then entered by the Valée Gate and arrived on the Place Nemours, where the Jewish inhabitants had eclipsed their fellow-subjects by a triumphal arch more sumptuous than the rest.

WHITBY NEW LIFE-BOAT.—Dr. Watson, of Derby, has presented to the National Life-boat Institution the cost of an additional life-boat for Whitby. The gift had been previously promised to the institution by Dr. Watson's sister, Miss Watson; but that lady having died somewhat suddenly, he immediately put himself in communication with the society, with the view of carrying out her benevolent wishes. The life-boat had its harbour trial a few days ago in the Regent's Canal Dock, Limehouse, when the self-righting of the boat and self-ejecting water from its deck were found perfectly satisfactory. The life-boat was forwarded to its station on Thursday last (the 29th ult.). During the past eighteen months the life-boats of the institution, and shore boats to the crews of which the society granted rewards, have saved upwards of 1000 shipwrecked persons; and the institution has also expended in the same period £30,000 on its life-boat establishment, of which it has now about 150 under its charge.

A DARING DESERTER.—An extraordinary case of desertion occurred last week at Colmar (Haut-Rhin), where the 3rd Regiment of Lancers is in garrison. A private of that regiment, named Huissou, when on duty at the entrance of the barracks between eleven and twelve at night, took advantage of the confusion caused by the simultaneous entrance of a number of men who had received permission to stay out late to slip unobserved into one of the stables, where he saddled the horse belonging to the chief veterinary surgeon, and contrived to leave the barracks by a back gate, the key of which he had taken from the guardhouse. His flight was not discovered till five in the morning, when despatches were sent off in all directions ordering his arrest. Soon after a telegram arrived from Neuf-Brisach stating that Huissou had alighted at the principal hotel of that town at three o'clock, where he ordered a good breakfast to be prepared for the officers of his regiment, who, he said, would soon be there. He also called for a breakfast for himself, which he ate, and ordered to be placed to the account of the officers, and then rode off towards the bridge which separates the French town of Neuf-Brisach from the Swiss town Vieux-Brisach. On reaching the bridge he was stopped by a sentinel and ordered to show his papers. He pretended to feel for them in his pocket; but the moment the sentinel rested his musket to receive him Huissou rode over him, and galloped across the bridge into Switzerland. The French gendarmes found the horse the next day at St. Louis, and it was given up to them by the Swiss authorities; but the deserter had escaped into the interior, and nothing has been heard of him since.

### THE HANDEL FESTIVAL.

THE first rehearsals for the Handel Festival of 1865 may be said to have begun eight years ago, when preparations were being made for the experimental festival of 1857. The experimental festival was naturally followed by the Grand Commemorative Festival of 1859, which marked the hundredth anniversary of Handel's death. This celebration was so successful that it was determined to repeat it three years afterwards, and to continue the repetitions at triennial intervals. The festival, then, which commenced last Monday was the second of a regular series of "Handel Festivals," and the fourth of a series of performances on a grand scale at the Crystal Palace of oratorios and portions of oratorios from the pen of Handel.

The so-called "rehearsal" was no rehearsal at all, in the proper sense of the word; it was, rather, a first performance of the principal pieces included in the programme of the three days' festival. The true rehearsals took place long ago; first, as we were saying, at the Handel celebrations of previous years; and, secondly, with a special view to this particular festival, at Exeter Hall (where the Metropolitan Choir has been in the habit of practising for some time past), and at the local head-quarters of the various provincial contingents. Each detachment arrives at the Crystal Palace under the orders of its own particular chief, and falls with military precision into the place assigned to it in the great choral brigade. At the rehearsal of 1857, which was really an experiment, some difficulty was experienced in bringing the different bodies together; but the organisation is now perfect, and Mr. Costa has no more trouble in directing the immense combined chorus of the Handel Festival than in directing his own well-disciplined body of chorists at the Royal Italian Opera—most of whom, by-the-way, are included in the festival choir. The admirable chorus of her Majesty's Theatre ought also, one would think, to have been engaged; and it is certainly to be regretted that the services of the principal soprano of that establishment were not retained. It is said, indeed, that an offer was made to Mdlle. Titiens, whose magnificent singing at the Handel Festival of 1862 could scarcely be forgotten; but that it was impossible to secure her co-operation, except on terms which, even in the present day, when such unprecedented large sums are given to vocalists, may be called exorbitant. It is fair to add that Mdlle. Titiens is bound to sing exclusively at Her Majesty's Theatre, and can only sing elsewhere by special permission of Mr. Mapleson, and on such terms as he may arrange.

In spite, however, of Mdlle. Titiens' absence, the solo singing of this year's festival has been unusually attractive, from the chief soprano music having been assigned to the incomparable Adeline Patti. This is, indeed, the "feature" of the festival. Mdlle. Patti had only just arrived in England when the arrangements for the Handel Festival of 1862 were being made, and in all probability it never entered the heads of the directors that the Amina and Rosina of the Royal Italian Opera was likely to distinguish herself in sacred music, and that she could sing "Let the bright Seraphim" quite as perfectly as the "Ah non giunge" of "La Sonnambula," and the "Una voce" of "Il Barbiere." However, the Birmingham festival soon gave Mdlle. Patti the opportunity of proving that in sacred, as in all kinds of secular music, in the music of the last century as in the music of the present day, she is equally without a rival. The most remarkable thing about Mdlle. Patti's talent is its many-sidedness, or rather, we should say, its completeness. She is the most lively comic actress of our time, and those who have seen her play in "Don Pasquale" at the Royal Italian Opera, or better still at the Vienna Theatre (where the audiences are of a joyful disposition), might be excused for thinking that she was born into the world for the purpose of amusing it. That, however, would not be the opinion of anyone who had witnessed her truly pathetic performance of such parts as Linda and Amina. Indeed, she is never more charming than in sentimental characters, unless it be in coquettish ones, such as Zerlina in "Don Giovanni" and Adina in "L'Elisir d'Amore." In grand operas she has not yet appeared, for the melodramatic "Trovatore" can scarcely be included in that category; but she possesses all the elevation of style requisite for the perfect representation of the chief parts in works of the tragic and heroic class, and her Leonora is itself a proof that the barriers which are supposed to separate the music of the light soprano from that of the dramatic soprano do not exist for her. This distinction, by-the-way, was never recognised by the great singers of the last century, nor, consequently, by the composers who wrote for them. The singers of expressive music were also able to sing florid music, which is by no means universally the case in the present day; nor did the singers of florid music confine themselves to that style alone. This, however, is the age of "specialties" in art as in science, manufactures, and commerce. We observe that with some of the advertising tailors the making of trousers is a "speciality," while others lay claim to "special" excellence in the cutting out of coats. A good tailor, however, ought to be able to make a good suit of clothes, and a really great vocalist ought to be able, like Mdlle. Patti, to sing all kinds of music—except, perhaps, Herr Wagner's, the execution of which may indeed be considered an *emploi* by itself. The great majority of the public had never, until Friday week, heard Mdlle. Patti sing a note of religious music; not, at least, that they were aware of, though numbers of them must have been impressed by the deep religious feeling with which she sings the touching prayer in "La Sonnambula." Mdlle. Patti had already sung the soprano music in fortunate Mr. Costa's oratorio of "Naaman"; but she now, for the first time, has come before the public as the interpreter of the chief parts in the great oratorios of Handel. Among the pieces executed at the Handel Festival none has produced a more marked impression on the audience than "Let the bright seraphim," as sung by Mdlle. Patti—a sublime air sublimely rendered. In this air it is quite appropriate to say that the singer's voice was angelic, while her exquisitely pure tones rivalled in precision the perfect trumpet-playing of Mr. Harper, who of course executed the obligato accompaniment. It would be difficult to say what qualities constitute the excellence of Mdlle. Patti's singing. Other singers have beautiful voices and sing correctly, but there is an indescribable poetry about all that Mdlle. Patti does which would charm us even if her voice were not so wonderfully beautiful as it is, and even if her execution were not quite as precise as that of Mr. Harper on the trumpet. We want something more than sound sense expressed in good grammar from an orator, and something more than correct notes, sung in a fine voice, from a singer; and this something more is given us in abundance by Mdlle. Patti. A man with a genius for oratory, even if he has nothing particular to say, can always make himself listened to; and Mdlle. Patti, whatever music she may have to sing, commands the attention of the audience in an irresistible manner. That she charms the public, young and old, learned and unlearned, is certain; and the charm is so perfect that perhaps the most reasonable thing to do is to accept it and submit to it without inquiring in what it consists, which would be very like pulling a flower to pieces with a view of discovering the origin of its beauty.

Mdme. Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Santley, by their singing at this festival, have fully sustained the reputation of our English vocalists—not, as a rule, to be excelled in the performance of oratorio music.

TRICK PLAYED BY THE TELEGRAPH ON A MINISTER.—Of all the freaks of the telegraph, the following is the most laughable which has come under our personal knowledge. Not long since a graduate from one of our eastern theological schools was called to the pastoral charge of a church in the extreme south-west. When about to start for his new parish he was unexpectedly detained by the incapacity of his presbytery to ordain him. In order to explain his non-arrival at the appointed time, he sent the following telegram to the deacons of the church:—"Presbytery lacked a quorum to ordain." In the course of its journey the message got strangely metamorphosed and reached the astonished deacons in this shape:—"Presbytery tacked a worm on to Adam." The sober church officers were greatly discomposed and mystified, but after grave consultation concluded it was the minister's facetious way of announcing that he had got married, and accordingly proceeded to provide lodgings for two instead of one.—*Boston Traveller* (U.S.)







